

**LIFESTYLE / D2**

KC: There's one star
shining brightest of all
in our celebritysphere

Education revolution
plotted in Makati

By Tarra Quismundo

AMID TALK OF A FRESH COUP D'ETAT plot, a revolution is raging quietly in a posh village in the nation's business capital.

Wielding ideas and feelings of optimism, leaders of the 57-75 Movement met yester-

EDUCATION / A10

METRO / A21

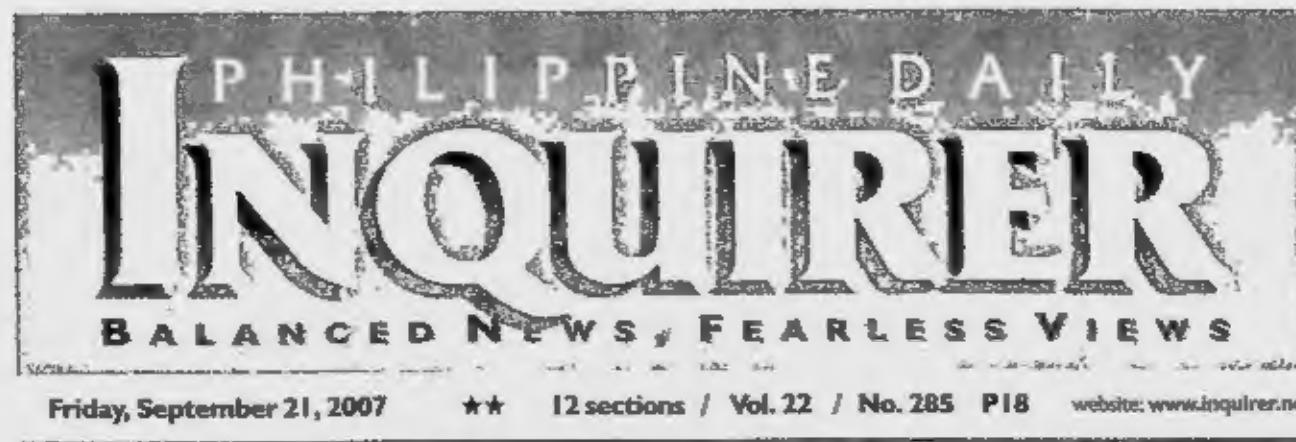
Revamp of Metro
Manila police chiefs
takes effect today

BUSINESS / B1

Gov't to earn P1.9B
from sale of 1.2-ha
lot in Global City

NEWS / A2

Malaysia's ex-deputy PM
seeks freedom for Erap,
says he's a true friend



ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN, 15-strong led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita file into the Senate session hall, surprising the 18 senators—chairs and members of the Senate committees on blue ribbon, trade and defense—who are probing the National Broadband Network deal. President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the officials to attend after the first hearing last Tuesday was snubbed by the Palace. (More photos on Page A16.) EDWIN BACASAS

Speaker tied to son's bid

Mendoza claims JDV
lobbied hard for AHI

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Dona Pazzibugan

TURNING THE TABLES on Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza yesterday said it was the businessman's father who aggressively lobbied for his son's firm to bag the contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

Asked by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago if he was approached by any government official or politician regarding the NBN project, Mendoza said Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. was the one who invited him for breakfast to the latter's house where he introduced his son and namesake.

During the meeting, Mendoza said he and the Speaker discussed a lot of issues, including the offer of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) for the NBN project.

The younger De Venecia is the founder of AHI, which submitted an unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project.

In an interview with the *Inquirer* following the hearing that ended at 9 p.m., Mendoza said: "He (the Speaker) was asking me to help Joey's project. He said this would be at no cost to the government."

MENDOZA / A18



SITTING PRETTY: The President's day focuses on the "exciting" state of RP's economy as Ms. Arroyo keynotes the conference on Mobilizing Aid for Trade in Asia and the Pacific at ADB headquarters in Mandaluyong.

The question is: Contract or executive agreement?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Riza T. Olchondra

IS THE BROADBAND NETWORK supply deal entered into by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and China's ZTE Corp. a contract or an executive agreement?

Government officials fumbled in explaining to senators the status of the supply contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project signed in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Hainan, China, on April 21.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the supply contract was not covered under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9184, which requires a bidding for government projects, because it was an executive agreement and a government-to-government deal.

"It's a contract under an executive agreement. It's conditional," said Mendoza.

But Sen. Panfilo Lacson ques-

THE QUESTION / A17



MAN IN HOT SEAT:
DOTC Secretary
Leandro Mendoza
and the man who
put him there, Jose
de Venecia III, at the
Senate during the
second day of the
hearing on the
increasingly
scandalous NBN
deal. BULIT MARQUEZIAF

GMA men swamp Senate; Mendoza clueless

By Dona Pazzibugan and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRACTICALLY ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN came to the Senate yesterday to defend the \$329-million NBN deal with China after President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband was linked to the controversial contract.

On Tuesday, Jose de Venecia III, the head of a company that lost out on the contract, told the Senate it was overpriced by at least

\$130 million to facilitate kickbacks for senior government officials.

The son of Speaker Jose de Venecia also said Jose Miguel Arroyo had told him to "back off" from the deal.

Led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, 15 Cabinet officials showed up at the Senate session hall and stayed through the nearly seven-hour inquiry held jointly by the Senate committees on blue ribbon,

trade and defense.

"We have the whole government represented here, which leads me to wonder what is so marvelous about this transaction that the entire government has come into this hall," said a grinning Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the trade committee.

Under the full glare of the Senate inquiry, Transportation and Communications Sec-

GMA MEN / A17

Before 'Rolex 12,' there was 'Omega 5'

By Inquirer Research
and Fe Zamora

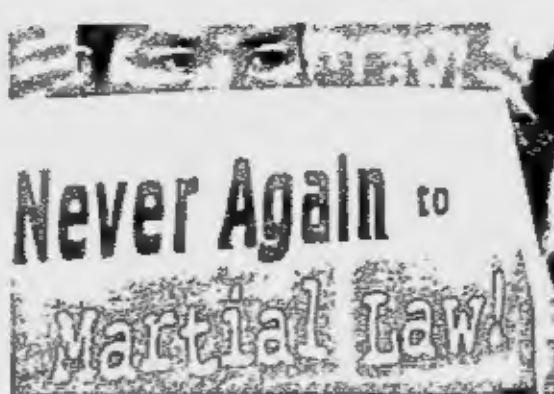
MARTIAL LAW IS GENERALLY believed to have been a one-man undertaking, but Ferdinand Marcos himself revealed that he consulted with certain people—initially referred to as the "12 apostles"—before he signed Proclamation No. 1081 on Sept. 21, 1972.

The details of the plan to declare martial law were contained in Oplan Sagittarius, a document

that identified the units involved in its implementation, as well as the targets for military takeover, such as airports, oil depots and the mass media.

Marcos named the two civilians and 10 top officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in a speech delivered in 1974 and published in the Official Gazette.

The military officers were AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Espino; Maj. Gen. Rafael Zagala, Army commanding general; Maj. Gen.



BEFORE / A17

Remembering, healing and never forgetting

By TJ Burgonio
and Volt Contreras

THE VOLUNTEER GUIDE AND RESEARCHER of the newly opened museum of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City is not your run-of-the-mill type.

Bernadette "Bernie" Aquino, a former political detainee, knows by heart, and can talk at length about, the melange of photos, books, un-

derground publications, paintings and mementos depicting the atrocities of martial law, which are on view at the museum.

She talks more animatedly about the memorabilia of the late Fr. Jeremias "Jerry" Aquino, an Aglipayan priest, including the letters and poems he wrote from prison, and a picture of himself with his wife and their three young daughters.

REMEMBERING / A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas which may trigger flashfloods or landslides. Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Batangas	Bacoor	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Batangas	Bacoor	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
La Union	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	San. Pablo	San. Pablo	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Zambales	Zambales	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Cagayan	Cloudy with Rains	Navotas	Navotas	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONT PAGE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2007

EZ2

SIX DIGIT

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49

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Erap sentence too harsh- Anwar

'One day he'll be free,' says former Malaysian deputy PM

By Margaux C. Ortiz

DESCRIBING JOSEPH ESTRADA AS A CLOSE friend, former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim yesterday expressed the hope the convicted former president would someday "be really free."

He also said he thought the 40-year sentence meted out on Estrada was "too harsh."

In his keynote address at the Second World Forum for Democracy in Asia at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza hotel in Pasay City, Anwar made special mention of Estrada, saying he "had remained a true friend."

"I may be touching a raw nerve but please bear with me when I say that I do wish and pray that he will one day be free," Anwar said.

Anwar had a close relationship with Estrada while the two were in power. Considered one of Malaysia's most charismatic

politicians, Anwar was fired nine years ago, ordered arrested by then Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and convicted of abuse of power and sodomy.

He was freed in 2004 when Malaysia's highest court overturned the sodomy conviction.

In an interview with reporters after his speech, Anwar said, "I followed the case closely, more so because it involved Erap," calling Estrada by his populist nickname.

"The law is one part, but the sentencing to me is a bit harsh ... it's a lot harsh," he said. "That's my personal judgment, but we still have to respect the



ANWAR IBRAHIM

judgment of a court of law."

Anwar said he had no qualms about charging one or two corrupt government officials and punishing them severely, but he put things in context by citing the extent of corruption in the Philippines.

"But there are a lot more cor-

rupt officials and I think that the penalty (meted out to Estrada) was very severe," he said.

He also said he had put in a request to see Estrada.

"I hope to say hello to him. We had been in contact in the past but I was not able to see him," Anwar said.

Anwar arrived in Manila on Sept. 18 to address the forum and is scheduled to leave today.

Estrada, for his part, thanked Anwar for his "comforting words" and laughed at their reversal of fortunes, recalling that when he was president, he had planned to visit Anwar in jail but Malaysian authorities did not allow him.

"The situation has turned around, I'm the one in detention now," Estrada told The Associated Press by phone from his Tanay, Rizal, estate where he has been under house arrest since his trial and now while his lawyers study their next move after his conviction.

Estrada was convicted by the Sandiganbayan antigrift court last week after a landmark six-year trial on plunder charges for taking bribes and kickbacks while in office.

PALACE AXES 3 officials for graft /A4

SC DENIES Eala plea with finality /A6

OSG BACKS bid in SC to stop 'Hello Garcí' probe /A7

WHAT'S INSIDE

No quarter for Erap, lawyers insist

By Alcuin Papa

A GROUP OF LAWYERS, SOME OF whom were involved in the prosecution of Joseph Estrada, said yesterday they would vehemently oppose a pardon or amnesty for the convicted president.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, the lawyers said they viewed with alarm the statements being made by the Arroyo administration officials favoring either amnesty or

a pardon for Estrada.

"We are united in opposing in the strongest possible terms any grant of amnesty or pardon to anyone who has betrayed the public trust and who remains unrepentant," the lawyers said.

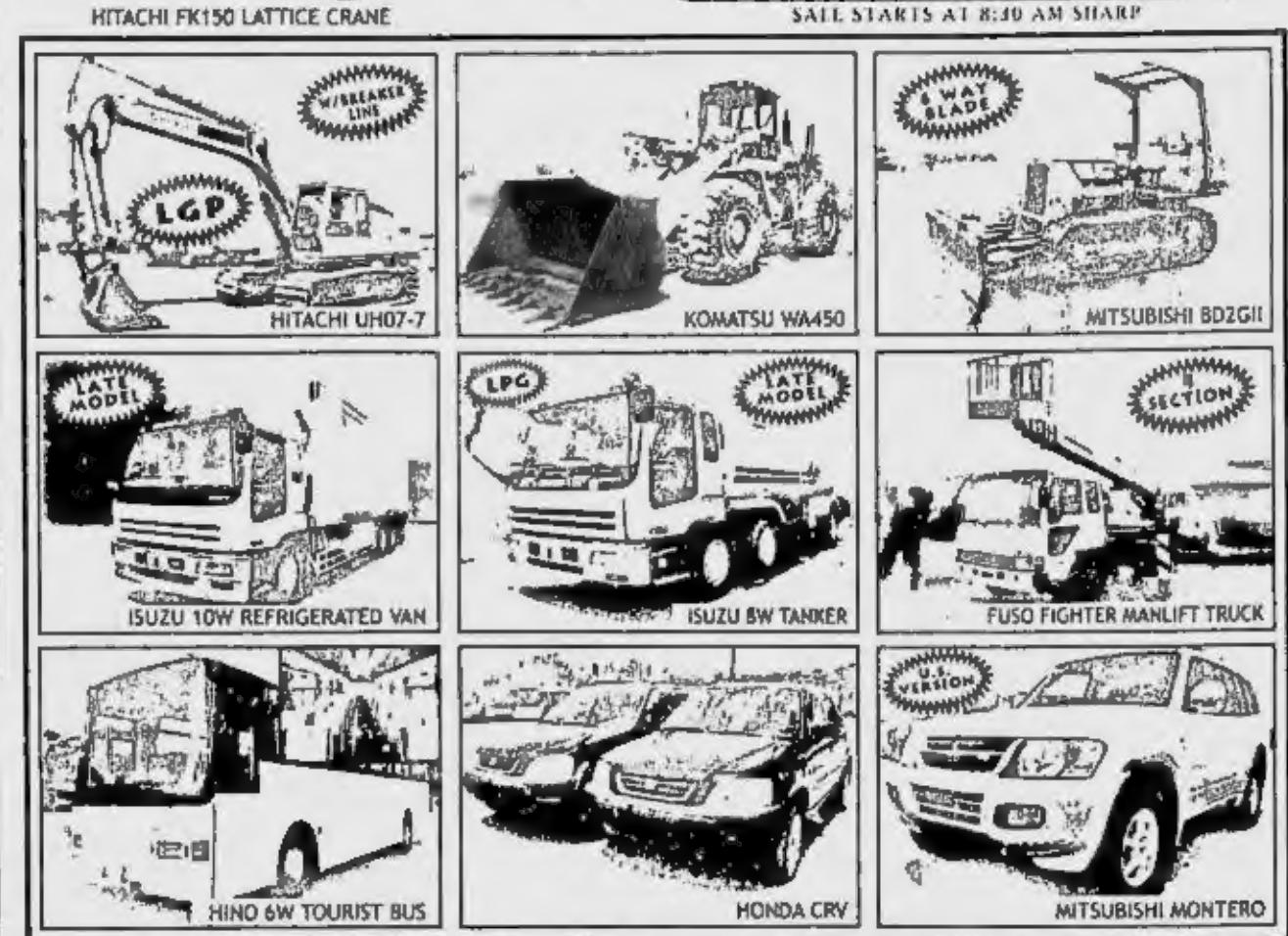
They added: "Let not the seductive siren call of political expediency allow an undeserving convict, no matter how powerful, to be granted amnesty or pardon meant only to serve selfish ends."

The statement was signed by Arno Sanidad, Anthony Peralta, Joe Nathan Tenefrancia, Rafael Antonio Santos, John Erico Balisnomo, Miguel Silos, Elmar Galacio, Christian Lim, Marichu Lambino, Raoul Angangco, Bienvenido Somera, Alejandro Alfonso Navarro, Susan Villanueva, Rodel Crus and Thea Daep-Laurena.

The statement was issued a day after "Law Day." September is also considered "Rule of Law Month."

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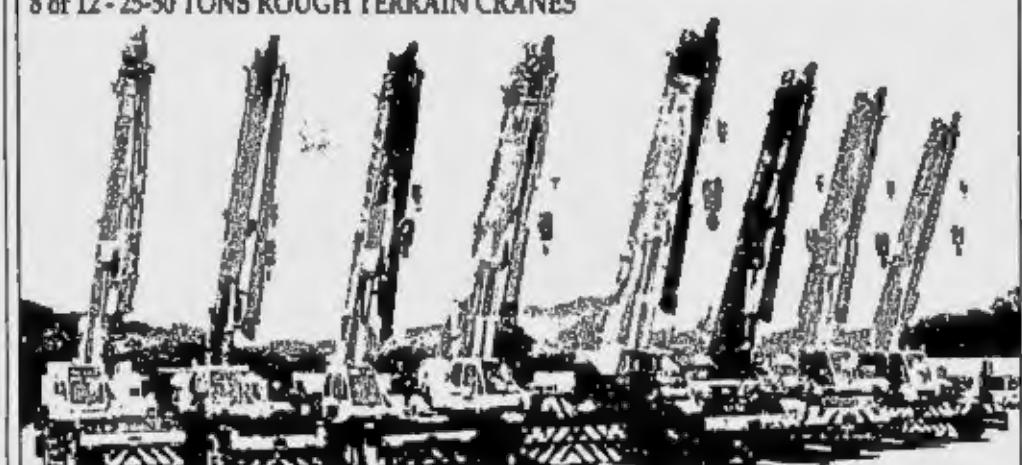
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8 of 12 - 25-50 TONS ROUGH TERRAIN CRANES



51 - EXCAVATORS



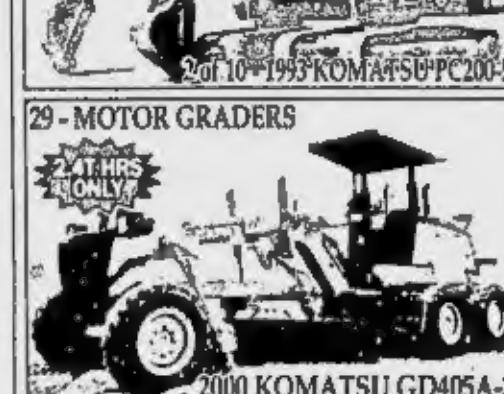
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Mindanao police on terror alert

By Alcuin Papa

THE CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) yesterday ordered regional police commanders in Mindanao to maintain vigilance, suggesting that the bomb blast which ripped through a bus in South Cotabato

on Wednesday could be followed by other terror attacks.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said his order was supported by a report of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) for the month of September which recommended that a high terror alert in the

region be maintained.

In a statement, Calderon said the Nica Special Monitoring Committee retained the "high" or level 3 terror alert for Regions 9, 10, 11, 12 in Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"The recent incident of

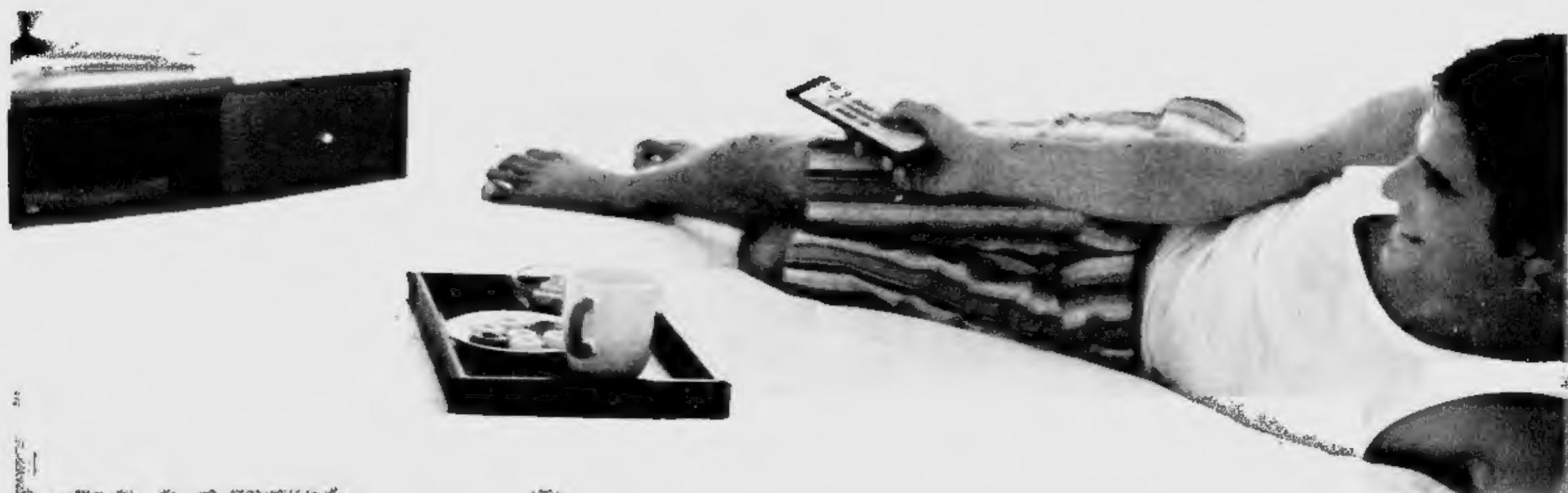
bombing in Marbel, South Cotabato perpetrated by the Al-Khabar extortion group and the attack of the New People's Army on cell sites of mobile phone companies in Camarines Sur are proof that terrorists are taking advantage of the developments in Metro Manila and the

government offensive in Mindanao," Calderon said.

He added, "So that no more incidents may follow, I am directing all my commanders to be proactive in their campaign against terrorism by exerting more effort in 'hardening' targets of terrorist groups."



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**Aiko:
I Went From a
37 to a 32-Inch
Waistline!**

"I never thought I'd end up being overweight. I used to be slimmer in my younger years. When I gained weight and went up to a 37-inch waistline, my life changed. I started losing acting projects. People would come up to me and tell me outright that I was fat. It really made me lose my confidence. I had liposuction done but when I gained excess weight again, it was triple of what I lost before. As for diets – you name it, I've tried it! I just kept losing and gaining again. Then Dawn (Zulueta), who's a close friend, recommended Marie France. I was encouraged by her weight-loss success story. I started going regularly and so far I've already slimmed down to a 32-inch waistline! I'm still a work in progress but so far I feel better because I know I look slimmer and healthier!"

- Aiko Melendez
Actress and Public Official

Call 894-BODY (2639)

Palace axes 3 officials for graft

By Michael Lim Ubac

AS PART OF ITS "STRENGTHENED thrust to fight graft and uplift the public's perception of the government," Malacahang has dismissed three ranking government officials, suspended two others and reprimanded three more.

Dismissed were Administrator Orlando Hondrade of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and board chair Francisco Dumpit and administrator Lorenzo Jamora of the Local Water Utilities Administration.

The penalties were imposed by the Office of the President on recommendation of the Palace's graft-busting arm, the Presiden-

tial Anti-Graft Commission, PAGC media officer Minaluz G. Satorre said yesterday.

Hondrade was dismissed for causing "undue injury to the government through gross inexcusable negligence" for advancing P1.5 billion toward the rehabilitation of the Umiray-Angat Transbangan Project "without complying with the law's requirements."

Chopper ride

Hondrade also rented private helicopters without a public bidding and failed to furnish the Commission on Audit documents pertinent to those expenses, the PAGC said.

The antifraud body found

Hondrade guilty of grave misconduct, conduct grossly prejudicial to the best interest of the service and violation of Republic Act No. 3019, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

"He also failed to observe the mandate of Republic Act No. 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees)," the PAGC said.

Dumpit and Jamora "failed to exercise diligence" when they authorized irregular and unnecessary contracts worth P1.4 million for the construction of the LWUA Training Center without an approved budget and prior approval from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

They were found guilty of dishonesty and of violating RA 3019.

Suspended were Department of Agrarian Reform regional director Nasser M. Musali and Air Transportation Office chief Nilo C. Jatico.

Musali was found guilty of violating RA 3019 and 6713 and of simple neglect of duty for failure to declare in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth his ownership of a residential lot in Davao City.

"Musali's repeated failure to make the required declarations from 2001 to 2005 warranted suspension from the service without pay for six months," the PAGC said.

Jatico was suspended for three months without pay for belatedly liquidating cash advances totaling P1.2 million.

"Based on our investigation, Jatico failed to liquidate his cash advances for 2003-2004 amounting to P1.2 million within the period prescribed by law," PAGC Chair Constance de Guzman said.

Aside from his failure to liquidate his cash advances within the prescribed period, Jatico continued to draw funds beyond the specified limit of P85,000 per year, De Guzman said.

Reprimanded were Professional Regulation Commission Chair Leonor Tripion-Rosero, PRC Board of Criminology chair Lourdes An-

iceto and Dr. Carol M. Yorobe, assistant secretary and officer in charge of the Technology Application and Promotion Institute.

Rosero and Aniceto were reprimanded for failure to reply to a petition filed by some licensed criminologists despite several follow-ups.

"The OP decision, which modified an earlier PAGC recommendation, stated that Section 5(a) of RA 6713 was clear and categorical that public officials and employees shall respond within 15 days to communications received from the public. Evidence failed to show any attempt by both officials to comply with the law," De Guzman said.

Cabral: Adoption offers hope for abandoned kids

ADOPTION WILL HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF abused, neglected and abandoned children and laws have been passed to hold the welfare and the best interest of the child being adopted.

This was the gist of the speech of Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral during the 9th Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services in Tagaytay City on Wednesday.

Cabral assured adoption experts and participants that "laws have been passed that

greatly hold the welfare and best interest of the child in paramount consideration whenever we speak of adoption."

She noted that while domestic adoption is encouraged, the implementation of the Inter-Country Adoption Act of 1995 "has given Filipino children with no families a greater fighting chance to experience filial love and warmth."

The Inter-Country Adoption Board (Icab), an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said the conference, which focused on the theme "Adoption: Opening Windows for Development," managed to put across the message that adoptees, and the adoptive parents, as well as adoption institutions, agencies and caregivers play a significant role in societal growth and development.

Adoption experts in the conference discussed policies and mechanisms to safeguard Filipino children being adopted by foreign families. Some 200 foreign and local delegates involved in child welfare are participating in the consultation.

Social Welfare Undersecretary and Icab alternate chair Luwalhati F. Pablo said that the four-day consultation was an effective venue for sharing experiences among professionals, experts and practitioners to ensure the protection of Filipino children being placed for inter-country adoption.

Inter-country adoption involves a Filipino child being adopted by a foreigner or a Filipino citizen permanently residing abroad.

Correction

IN THE SEPT. 20 ISSUE, a front-page story—"House coalition cracks up, JDV could lose Speakership"—erroneously attributed to Davao City Rep. Prospero Nogales the statement: "Our only problem is the First Gentleman. He has always been." The statement was made by a lawmaker who declined to be identified.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Magsaysay Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Tarlac solon seeks Internet curbs on porn

IN AN EFFORT TO CURB THE RISING cases of sexual exploitation of minors in the country, Rep. Monica Prieto-Teodoro has filed House Bill No. 684 seeking the maximum penalty of life imprisonment for the production, distribution, export, transmission, sale, possession, and advertising of child pornographic materials.

In a statement, Teodoro said "there is a need for a legislative measure to address this disturbing social phenomena, which has been growing particularly due to access to and availability on the Internet."

Teodoro said that aside from reinforcing Republic Act No. 7160—the Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act—the proposed measure also regulates Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and all other players in the telecommunications and information technology industry.

No protection

RA 7160 does not provide adequate protection to victims of other forms of sexual abuse such as child pornography.

"Unlike in other countries, Internet service in the Philippines is loosely, if at all, regulated, providing anyone with a computer or mobile phone access to illicit material," Teodoro said.

The proposed measure conforms with Article 34 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child to which the Philippines is a signatory.

The provision says that state parties should undertake measures to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, such as inducement or coercion to engage in any unlawful sexual activity, exploitative use in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices, and exploitative use in pornographic performances and materials.

Complementary to the Convention, the Philippines is also a signatory to the Optional Protocol which prohibits the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

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INQUIRER

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OSG backs bid in SC to stop 'Hello Garci' probe

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR General has supported a petition by two retired justices before the Supreme Court seeking to stop the Senate investigation into the "Hello Garci" tapes containing alleged wiretapped conversations of President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election official.

In a comment before the high court, the OSG, which represents the government, said any discussion of the recording's contents would be illegal, being prohibited by the Constitution under the right to privacy of communication and by the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

It said the Constitution bans the use of any evidence illegally

obtained in any proceeding, while the Anti-Wiretapping Law declares unlawful the discussion of the contents of wiretapped material.

The use of the tapes, even in a Senate investigation, was therefore not allowed, the OSG said.

The Hello Garci tapes reportedly contain the conversations of the President with an election official in which the two allegedly discussed electoral fraud.

"Plainly, the replaying of an unauthorized wiretap and the communication of its contents, either verbally or in writing, is unlawful. In fact, even the mere 'knowing' possession of an illegal wiretap already constitutes a violation of the law," the OSG said.

It said the Senate investigations were "evidently actionable inasmuch as they involve a discussion of the contents of the so-called 'Garci tapes,' the OSG said in its comment filed last Wednesday.

It cited a violation of the Constitution and the Anti-Wiretapping Law during the Sept. 7 Senate hearing in which the contents of the wiretapping were discussed, citing an exchange between Sen. Loren Legarda and former military intelligence agent Vidal Doble.

The Senate reopened the Hello Garci issue after Sen. Panfilo Lacson delivered a speech and presented the statement of Doble, who he said had heard the President and former elections commissioner Virgilio

Garcillano talking about an "additional one million votes" for Ms Arroyo when he wiretapped their conversation.

Doble had also linked an aide of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the operation to get him out of the San Carlos Seminary where he had holed up following the expose about the wiretapped recording.

The OSG was commenting on a petition before the high court by retired Court of Appeals justices Santiago Ranada and Osvaldo Agcaoili who sought to stop the Senate hearing, saying the issue would further divide the country and that the investigations would violate the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

They also said the rules of procedure necessary for the

conduct of inquiries in aid of legislation have not yet been published.

In its comment, the OSG also concurred with Ranada's and Agcaoili's observation about the absence of rules governing the Senate inquiry.

It said the Constitution mandates that rules of procedures on inquiries in aid of legislation be published to forestall or eliminate abuses.

"Accordingly, there must be strict compliance with this constitutional command of 'duly published rules of procedure.' With all due respect, however, this evident mandate of the Constitution has not been fully satisfied by the Senate of the 14th Congress," it said.



GARCILLANO

Court won't let witness testify on abductions

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY stopped a member of the Karapatan human rights group from testifying on incidents of alleged enforced disappearances in Central Luzon during a hearing on the habeas corpus petition of missing activist Jonas Burgos.

Sister Cecille Ruiz, the Karapatan chair for Central Luzon, was supposed to testify on other incidents of enforced disappearances allegedly done by the military in the region.

The Office of Solicitor General opposed Ruiz's testimony on the ground that it was irrelevant.

Ruiz was the witness presented by Jonas' mother, Edita Burgos, who filed the petition for habeas corpus against the military and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The head of the appellate court's 7th Division that is hearing the case said the directive from the Supreme Court, where the petition was filed, was to hear the petition only and therefore disallowed Ruiz to testify.

Justice Remedios Salazar-Fernando, the division head, also said that the Karapatan data was presented during the Supreme Court-led summit on extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in July, where she was one of the participants.

Immaterial to the case

Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tang said Ruiz's testimony was immaterial to the case since the Supreme Court has declared that the issue in petitions for habeas corpus deal is whether a person is illegally detained.

Since the military has repeatedly denied it has the missing activist in its custody, the petition should be dismissed outright, said Tang.

But Edita's lawyer Ricardo Fernandez argued that the petition was not just a simple habeas corpus case since they had also asked that command responsibility be determined and the police be directed to make a more thorough investigation of Jonas' disappearance.

A need to find solutions

"The court is tasked to decide the case on the merits and one of the issues raised is the fact that the Jonas Burgos case is not an isolated one," Fernandez said.

Fernandez also noted the pronouncements of Chief Justice Reynato Puno that there is a need to find solutions to petitions for habeas corpus, which have been dismissed on mere denial of the other party that he does not have the person.

"We will not find out the truth behind the disappearance of Jonas Burgos if the testimony of Sister Cecille Ruiz is not presented. The court should take a more liberal stance in accepting her," he said.

Jonas was abducted at the Hapag Kainan restaurant at the Ever Gotesco mall in Quezon City on April 28. He was reportedly forced into a vehicle with Plate No. TAB-194. The vehicle plates were later traced to another vehicle in the custody of the 56th Infantry Battalion in Bulacan.

The Provost Marshal General has conducted an investigation into the administrative liability of military personnel for the loss of the license plate in its custody, but has so far refused to release the report to the Burgos family.

The report has been subpoenaed by the court, but the military filed a motion to quash it.

The court denied the motion, but the OSG appealed the ruling. The Burgos family has been given five days to comment on the OSG's motion for reconsideration.



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Remembering, healing and never forgetting

From page A1

To Bernie's activist-friends, this is not surprising. After all, Jerry Aquino was her husband.

Now 53, Bernie is a program assistant at Peace for Life, an international interfaith organization that opposes militarization and globalization.

She organizes forums and conferences, and her typical day begins and ends with making calls and sending e-mail to a network of people's groups.

She leaves her office on Edsa in her spare time, and walks a few meters to the museum.

And in much the same way that the museum offers young people a glimpse of the horrors of martial law, Bernie's volunteer work allows her to come to grips with her own pain.

"This is a kind of healing," she says.

Prison time

In 1974, after three years of organizing students and workers, the 20-year-old Bernie was arrested by a truckload of soldiers, charged with subversion and thrown in jail.

She was released two years later. She resumed her work, met Jerry Aquino at the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, and married him.

Two years later, the couple left Manila for northern Luzon, where they organized peasants and worked with the minorities, until Jerry was arrested by military authorities in September 1979.

He was detained for a year at a Philippine Constabulary stockade in Bontoc, Mt. Province, and later at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig. He was freed in December 1980, after days of fasting.

A year later, at 32, he was killed in a vehicular accident in Manila.

These days, Bernie cannot talk publicly about her and her husband's experience during martial law—which was imposed 35 years ago today—without choking up.

Asked about her most painful memories, she says: "[Our] arrest, interrogation and detention. Our life of being always on the run. The thought that you will be arrested and killed. My isolation from my family."

A form of release

But Bernie has found comfort in sifting through her husband's mementos, putting them on exhibit at the museum, and sharing his life story with complete strangers.

"When I started arranging them, the memories came flooding back," she says. "After we presented them at the museum, it was some sort of healing for us."

Bernie and her daughters—Kaiayaan, 30; Diwa, 27; and Dakila, 25 (from Dakilang Diwa ng Kalayaan)—worked with 11 other female activists in researching and collating martial law memorabilia, and then designing the museum.

"The first time [I shared the experience], I cried. I still cry, but it's not that intense anymore after telling and retelling his story," Bernie says. "Sharing his life story, my life story—it's a form of release."

Sorting her father's journal, letters and poems was a rediscovery for Dakila, who was only three months old when he died.

"It's like going back to the past. You become part of what you're doing," she told the Inquirer at the museum's opening last month. "You can't write, or organize the photos, if you don't have background. You really have to go back to the diaries to get the right perspective."

The Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation opened the museum on Aug. 24 on the second floor of the Jovito R. Salonga



PORTRAIT OF PEOPLE POWER in Makati City from the time when protest actions were daily occurrences is up on the wall at the museum.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

MOVING PICTURE: Blowup photo of an anti-Marcos rally toward the waning years of martial rule after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino is on one wall of the museum at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani. Former Solicitor General and Ambassador Sedfrey Ordoriz (right) is one of the distinguished visitors on the 35th anniversary of the declaration of martial law on Thursday.



MEMORIAL TO HEROISM: Bantayog ng mga Bayani's new building houses the memorabilia pertaining to the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship, including a prison cell replica. On the Wall of Remembrance are the names of martyrs of a dark period in the nation's history.

Building behind the Bantayog Memorial on Quezon Avenue.

Mass in a church or on the road. He opposed the construction of the Chico hydroelectric dam in view of the dangers it posed to the Cordillera peoples.

"He went to areas where there was no priest. He made the peasants aware of their situation, and of the need for them to organize themselves. He brought the Church to them," his widow says.

"He had passion, and commitment."

Like the museum, the book will attempt to present the other story of martial law—the story of its victims—which, Bernie says, "has been lost in history books."

"I'm using my painful experience to keep me going," she says. "There's never any closure because the things Jerry fought against are still happening. The poverty, violence, corruption—they are continuing."

Midnight curfew

Often buried in the painful recollection of the dark days are the fast-fading memories of

how even ordinary citizens, or those with little or no involvement in political activism, felt the dictatorship's iron fist.

One of the drastic changes in their world was the state-imposed curfew from midnight to 4 a.m.

It was one of Marcos' most sweeping tools of fear, and it found targets in people like a cabdriver in his 20s when martial law was declared on Sept. 21, 1972.

Thinking he had eluded authorities by taking the inner streets, Ramon eventually got flagged down on Buendia Avenue in Pasay City by a mobile team of cops under the then Metropolitan Command.

"The policeman even addressed me as 'Sir' and asked rather politely why I'm still out. It was just past midnight," recalled "Ramon," now in his 50s and still driving a cab. (He declined to give his real name, saying: "I just want a quiet life.")

He was told to pull over—and by 3:30 a.m. he had been joined by some 20 other

cabdrivers, men on motorbikes, even messengers lugging bags full of envelopes.

The offenders—in their respective vehicles and their driver's licenses confiscated—were told to join a passing "convoy" of other curfew violators. They drove all the way to the Army headquarters then in Fort Bonifacio, where their names were taken down.

At 8 a.m., the offenders were ordered to "pull weeds" in what Ramon thought was a playground.

They were released before noon, given their licenses back, and warned against a repeat offense.

Ramon recalled that certain motorists were granted "curfew passes," such as transporters of perishables like meat and vegetables.

Nightlife

If a cabbie takes someone to a hospital during curfew hours, "the doctor has to write a letter certifying the emergency; that would be the driver's pass to get home," he said.



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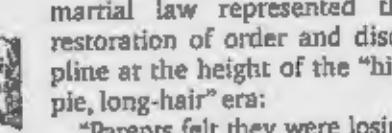
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"Approval"
Naturally, nightspots made a killing.

"There were reasons to stay in nightclubs, and wives didn't like it," activist theater director Behn Cervantes curtly observed.

Cervantes, himself a former detainee, surmised on hindsight that parents at that time "approved" of martial law because it forced their children to be home before midnight.

He said that to these parents, martial law represented the restoration of order and discipline at the height of the "hippie, long-hair" era:

"Parents felt they were losing control over their children, and then here comes another force doing it for them—the military—which seemed to come across as a benevolent, yet stricter, second parent." With a report from Jocelyn R. Uy

Exec sees world labor shortage

By Margaux C. Ortiz

RAPIDLY AGING POPULATIONS AND RADICAL shifts in demography have resulted in a shortage of skilled workers and an alarming increase in unemployment worldwide.

In an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) conference on human resource and economic development in Makati City Tuesday, local and foreign labor officials emphasized the need to respond to this disturbing trend.

"There is a growing need for human talent in the Asia-Pacific region, including the United States," said Deputy Assistant Secretary Douglas Small of the US Department of Labor employment and training administration.

Small said the Apec conference was meant to be a venue for exchanging information on human resource development as part of worldwide investment.

"The world labor market is suffering from an aging work force and a shortage of skilled youth," Small said.

Undersecretary Luzviminda Padilla of the Department of Labor and Employment confirmed what Small said, adding that the

Philippine labor market was suffering from a labor surplus and jobs mismatch.

"There is a large number of educated unemployed and underemployed in the country, especially among women and the youth," Padilla said in her speech at the conference.

Padilla said the jobs mismatch was the result of lack of information on work requirements and a gap in educational facilities to meet market skills.

"There is really a need to strategize so lives in our country would be better off," Padilla said.

The keynote speaker, Richard Evans, country manager of Manpower Outsourcing Services Inc., echoed the challenge to employers worldwide.

"There is fierce competition for talent worldwide, limiting the supply of skilled workers," Evans said.

He said the Western world was aging "and the baby boomers are nearing retirement age and no one is around to take their place."

Evans also said demographic shifts were a result of low fertility rates and higher life

expectancy.

"By 2050, there will be 1.2 billion people over 50 years old in the Asia Pacific," he said.

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PCGG stops deal on Pasig property

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government has stopped the implementation of a management deal involving the "Payanig," an 18.4-hectare prime property in Pasig City which was turned over to the government in 1986 by one of the cronies of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

PCGG chair Camilo Sabio has asked the Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp. which owns the property and Optimus Property Holdings Corp. to hold in abeyance their June 27 management contract. Mid-Pasig Land was one of several Marcos firms surrendered to the government by businessman Jose Yao Campos under a compromise deal with the PCGG.

The PCGG has sought legal advice on the issue from the Office of the Solicitor General.

"We'll have the final review... We're going to discuss it en banc," Sabio said.

The PCGG wants to know whether a public bidding is needed considering the value of the property involved and whether the agreement violates the antigraft law.

Sabio told a news conference yesterday that the Mid-Pasig Land-Optimus agreement "together with the comment of the Solicitor General will be transmitted to the Secretary of Justice for final review and action."

Some PCGG insiders yesterday accused Commissioner Ri-

cardo Abcede of keeping the body in the dark about the Mid-Pasig Land-Optimus deal.

Abcede is in charge of the PCGG's asset management department.

But Abcede denied the allegation, saying the agreement was not yet a done deal.

"Wala pa yan (There's nothing to it). It has been approved only on the (Mid-Pasig-Optimus level). It is still subject to a lot of discussions by the commission en banc, which in turn will refer it to the OSG," Abcede told the INQUIRER.

He assured that the PCGG would not enter into a contract that will be disadvantageous to the government.

On March 20, Optimus president Precioso Perlas forwarded to Mid-Pasig chair Ernesto Jalandoni the draft of their proposed property management agreement.

Optimus, a property management company with expertise on taking over properties with legal problems, has offered to manage and administer the Payanig property for Mid-Pasig.

The firm noted that only 48 percent of the Payanig property was productive with the rest embroiled in legal proceedings from which no income is derived.

The Payanig property, said to be worth over P10 billion, is the subject of two civil cases now pending with the Sandiganbayan, including an ownership claim by Marcos' son Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

Free measles shots

CHILDREN AGED nine months to four years can avail themselves of free measles immunizations in their barangay health centers next month as the Department of Health (DOH) tries to keep up with the country's goal of controlling the disease in the country by 2008.

The DOH is set to implement another round of measles immunizations for children in October to reach out to the children who were missed in the past implementations of the program.

Yolly Oliveros, director of the National Center for National Disease Prevention and Control, said in an interview that the "Knock-out Tigidas" Campaign next month will be a "catch-up" in keeping with the country's goal of eliminating measles deaths by 2008. Beverly T. Natividad

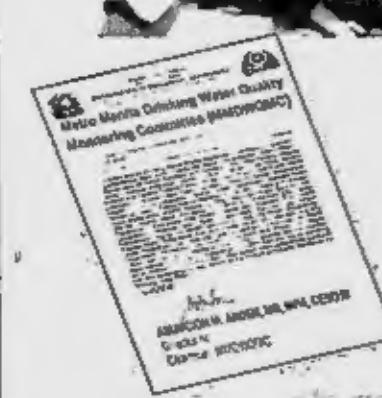
• MANILA WATER •

Part of Quezon City and Manila, Marikina, Pasig, Pateros, Taguig, Makati, San Juan and Mandaluyong



• MAYNILAD •

Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Manila, Pasay, part of Quezon City, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa



MANILA WATER

East Zone

JULY	AUGUST	CRITERIA	JULY	AUGUST
740	743		738	749
740	743	Number of potable samples	733	746
95%	95%		95%	95%
100%	100%	Minimum compliance with Philippine National Standard for Drinking Water (PNSDW)	99.32%	99.60%
0.76	0.69		0.86	0.89
0.20	0.20	Satisfactory Compliance	0.20	0.20
		Average residual chlorine in Parts Per Million (PPM)		
		PNSDW requirement in Parts Per Million (PPM)		

* Metro Manila Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Committee

Manila Water



MWSS



NWRB



DOH



DENR



MWSI

Metro Water is Safe

Water Quality Report*

MANILA WATER		CRITERIA	MAYNILAD	
JULY	AUGUST		West Zone	
740	743	Number of samples examined	738	749
740	743	Number of potable samples	733	746
95%	95%	Minimum compliance with Philippine National Standard for Drinking Water (PNSDW)	95%	95%
100%	100%	Satisfactory Compliance	99.32%	99.60%
0.76	0.69	Average residual chlorine in Parts Per Million (PPM)	0.86	0.89
0.20	0.20	PNSDW requirement in Parts Per Million (PPM)	0.20	0.20

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"REBELS" FOR EDUCATION plot their next move on Thursday at the residence of Eugenia Duran-Apostol, chair of the Foundation for World Wide People Power. Clockwise, from left, are Joel Pagsanghan, an unidentified participant, Apostol, ICF education chair Gerry de Asis, Butchie Ayuya, Irene Labitad of Metrobank, Carmela Oracion of the Ateneo Center for Education, 57-75 program officer Nicole Tria Tirona and Mario Deriquito of Ayala Foundation and head of Task Force 57-75.

From page A1

day in Dasmariñas Village in Makati City to hatch their plan to pursue the mission of pulling up the learning curve among Filipino students and boosting the national basic school aptitude average.

"Education is the most commonly mentioned social problem that we need to address, and the problems of education are so huge ... so you really need a large-scale effort from both the private sector and government to address the problem," said Joel Pagsanghan of the Foundation for World Wide People Power (FWWPP), a member of the movement.

"That's how 57-75 comes in. It's a coming together of many organizations already involved in education, a coming together of groups to have a bigger collective impact," he told the Inquirer.

Launched two months ago, 57-75

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The 57-75 has
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Guimaras; Iloilo
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Turning point

THE TESTIMONY OF BUSINESSMAN JOSE "JOEY" de Venecia III before the Senate on Tuesday and the testimony of three Cabinet secretaries before the same Senate committees yesterday define a true turning point in post-Edsa II politics. Beyond the all-consuming question of an unpopular President's continuing political survival, we face history's ruthless judgment: Do we ever learn?

EDITORIAL The political sharks certainly smell blood in the water. But the red stain is wide and visible even from a distance. The wounds the Arroyo administration have sustained are real; whether they are deep enough to prove fatal will be determined in the next few weeks or so.

What do we know for certain?

The young De Venecia's testimony was, by and large, credible. Some inconsistencies exist, and the failure to mention the alleged "Back off!" encounter in his affidavit is problematic. But overall, with its sometimes gratuitous specificity, his testimony has the ring of truth.

As for his past drug use, what of it? And does Evangeline "Luli" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's usually mild-mannered daughter, really want to start a whispering campaign about substance abuse among powerful families?

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's musings on human nature are absolute nonsense. As in the Estrada impeachment trial six years ago, Santiago again suggests that people—lawyers then, businessmen now—are motivated only by base greed or sheer self-interest. It may be that that is the world she lives in, but her world is not ours. Just because powerful figures are involved doesn't mean that big money is behind De Venecia's revelations, or that De Venecia, the son of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, is necessarily motivated by personal considerations alone. Indeed, considering the personal risk he has taken, De Venecia has already acted against his own best interests.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's belated response to the young De Venecia's allegation that he had tried to intimidate him into backing out of the National Broadband Network project, as couched through his lawyer Jesus Santos, sounds plausible. Apparently, in their version of events, Arroyo met the young De Venecia only by happenstance, and only for the first time, in the Wack-Wack clubhouse in mid-March this year, and only told him he shouldn't be involved in government projects, considering he was the Speaker's son. As we said, it sounds plausible, but it is hardly credible.

Many circumstances explain this lack of credibility, chief of these being the lack of corroboration from other statements issued by other alleged participants in that fateful meeting.

The divided loyalties of Speaker Jose de Venecia are understandable, but they have made him vulnerable; indeed, he has become the most vulnerable of all political players involved in the ZTE scandal. This is not to say that he has nothing to fight with, that he does not hold any cards of his own. But there is reason to believe that some of the blood in the water is his own.

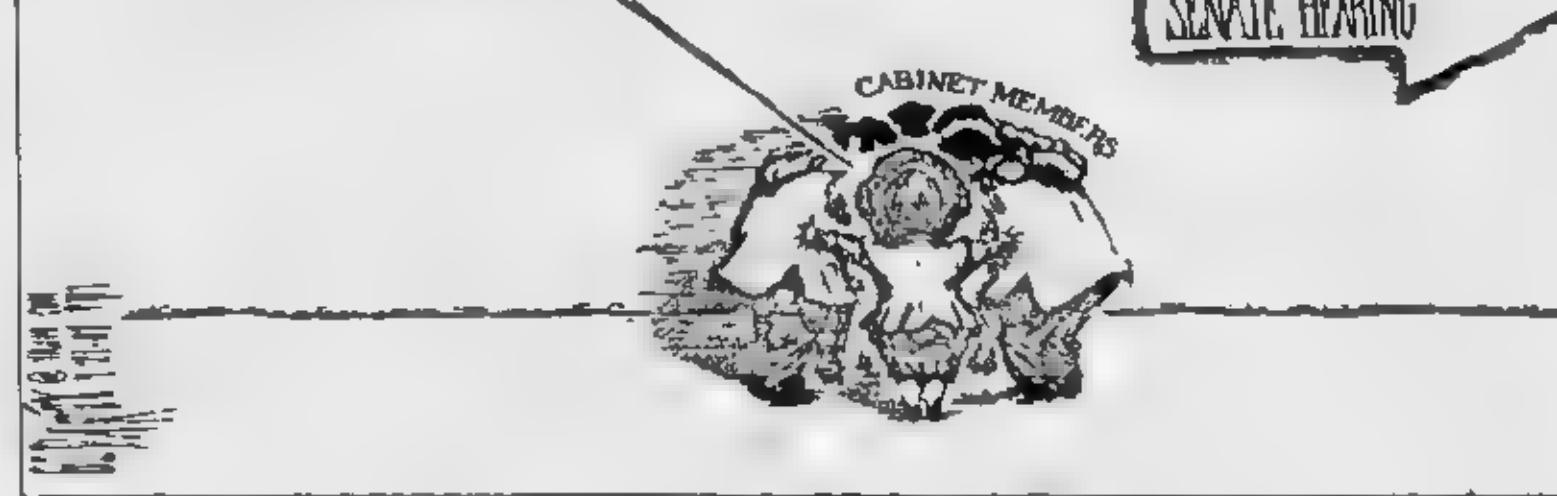
The by-now-clearly-documented role of Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos in the ZTE corporation's proposal for a national broadband network is incomprehensible—and truly reprehensible. He has denied his involvement, but he can no longer deny the unusual trips to China, the series of meetings with the young De Venecia, and now that alleged mid-March meeting with Arroyo. Of all officials involved in the ZTE scandal, he has the most to explain.

He is the official principally responsible for elections, what is he doing brokering billion-peso contracts during an election season?

We have long called for this disgraced and disgraceful official's resignation or impeachment. His involvement in the ZTE scandal is even more reason to repeat our call. But we are not unaware that, as the chief election official in the last three main elections, Abalos holds many secrets. We cannot imagine enough congressmen mustering the political courage to impeach him. We certainly cannot imagine him resigning. We will have to bide our time and wait for a plunder case to be filed against him.

While we wait, we will continue to be haunted by the essential question: When will we ever learn?

TWO THINGS:
KEEP ME AND MY HUSBAND
OUT OF THIS AND AAHH!.....
THAT'S ABOUT IT.



Greed in Batangas Port land case

As I See It



Neal H. Cruz

filed a motion for reconsideration last Sept. 6. To better serve the ends of justice, we urge the tribunal to look into the case more deeply.

I think we will discover more overpriced projects as the Arroyo administration winds down to 2010. In basketball lingo, this is its last two minutes and public officials, knowing they would be out of jobs and out of power in less than three years, are now providing for their future. What better and faster way to do that than to overprice projects.

The President cannot stop her subordinates from doing that because she is a lame-duck President. She is still in Malacañang only because of the support of her allies. If she cracks down on them, they can withdraw their support and where would she be? Look at what happened to former President Joseph Estrada. GMA knows that what she did to him can also be done to her. So she will just sit tight, please her allies and hope that she lasts until 2010.

In fact, it is possible she herself is thinking of providing for her future. She will need lots of money for lawyers when she is no longer President and plunder and graft cases are filed against her for the things she did while in office.

I hope not, but it is also possible she is the "mystery woman" behind the ZTE broadband case as her husband is the "mystery man." Circumstantial evidence points to that.

She flew all the way to China to witness the signing of the ZTE contract. Why? Obviously to show her support for the project. What was signed was allegedly "stolen" soon after. Why?

GMA did not order that the contract be reconstituted or that a copy be obtained from the Chinese. And in spite of a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court, she issued a statement that the Philippines would honor the contract which nobody but the signatories have seen.

The pieces of the puzzle are falling into place.

'Back off!' the new idiom of corruption

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

trained staff to make the best use of these "contraptions," as one dinosaur called them in my building here in Diliman.

Finally, the government is a tried and tested failure in running infrastructure, and that is why it has now privatized water, power and transport to deliver cheaper and more efficient services to the paying public. Its bureaucracy is simply too cumbersome, at its finest, and too corrupt, at its most venal, to keep technology modern and running. Conversely, government should instead make the most of its true advantage, its "procurement leverage" as a big buyer, in an industry where bulk use drastically lowers the seller's cost.

Without the De Venecia testimony, these weighty issues might not have ignited public outrage. Contrast that to the drama of the Erap trial, with the image of a bayong full of cold cash handcarried by thugs to the "Lord of all Jueteng lords." This time, the thief is far more suave, and players threaten one another in *coño* English in chic places.

In the Philippines, there is a class divide even in the treatment of witnesses. The Erap trial flourished because of witnesses like the warlord Chavit Singson, who is a "Witness Protection Program" on his own, and the bank vice president Clarissa Ocampo, who has her own built-in credibility as a professional. In contrast, who remembers those witnesses against Malacafu in all the past scandals? The low-level munitions have either recanted and apologized, or were shamed to pieces like T/Sgt. Vidal Doble earlier this week.

And then the young De Venecia came, with all the advantages of both Chavit and Clarissa. Hence the vicious attacks on his character, because the NBN debate is at its core a battle for the hearts and minds of the Filipino public. The UP deans conclude: "The only backbone the government needs today is a moral one, not fiber optic but fibre politique."

The Ombudsman's *motu proprio* powers? "Cry Havoc, and let slip the dogs of war; that foul deed shall smell above the earth."

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

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Proclamation 1081 recalled

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



was pulling the strings of the events that were unfolding?

In his handwritten diaries, Marcos wrote on Sept. 22, Friday, this entry at 9:55 p.m.: "Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile was ambushed near Wack-Wack at about 8 p.m. tonight. It was a good thing he was riding in his security car as a protective measure. His first car, which he usually uses, was the one riddled by bullets from a car parked in ambush. He is now at his DND office and I have advised him to stay there. And I have doubled the security of Imelda (Marcos) in Nayon Pilipino where she is giving dinner to the UPI and AP as well as other wire services.

This makes the martial law proclamation a necessity. Imelda arrived at 11:35 p.m. in my Electra bullet proof car to be told that Johnny had been ambushed. It is all over the radio.

"Congress is not adjourning tonight as the conference committee on Tariff and Customs Code could not agree on common version. They adjourn tomorrow."

On Sept. 23, Marcos wrote this entry at 12:20 p.m.: "Things have moved according to plans although out of the total 200 target personalities in the plan only 53 have been arrested, including the three senators, Aquino, Jose Diokno and Ramon Mitra and Chino Roces (publisher of The Manila Times) and Teddy (Teodoro Locsin Sr.), editor of the Philippines Free Press." Roces, Locsin, Max Soliven of The Manila Times, Napoleon Rama of the Free Press and Luis Mariano of the Graphic were among the first to be arrested at midnight at their homes in the first round of arrests.

In the next few days, the gym of Camp Crame was filling up as more arrests were made, includ-

ing leftist activists, officials branded as crooks and corrupt, and suspected smugglers. I was not seized in the first wave of arrests.

Johnny Mercado, Senate reporter of the Evening News and executive director of the Philippine Press Institute, whom Marcos hated intensely, and Luis Beltran, columnist of the Evening News, were among those rounded up in the second wave of the dragnet.

I went into hiding for a few days, until Rod Reyes, then executive vice president of the Chronicle, passed the word to me that Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, then chief of the Philippine Constabulary, had sent him the message that I and Ernie Granada, columnist of the Chronicle, would be safer if we would be put under his custody. Rod surrendered Ernie and me to Ramos. We joined the growing crowd at Camp Crame.

On Sept. 23, Marcos wrote: "I was supposed to broadcast at 12 a.m. but technical difficulties prevented it. We had closed all TV stations. We had to clear KBC which broadcast it live. VOP and PBS (both government broadcasting stations) broadcast it by radio nationwide."

The finishing touches on the proclamation were readied two days before the proclamation. He wrote on Sept. 20 that after a meeting with Enrile, the general staff and chiefs of the major services, "they recommended the use of emergency powers including martial law." After the assessment of the state of public order, he gave an interview "where we kept silent on emergency powers."

"I was surprised to hear (Executive) Secretary (Alex) Melchor say he was now in favor of martial law although he was against it a year and a half ago. And all (Justice) Secretary Jose Abad Santos said was, 'Let us not talk about it publicly.'

Marcos continued: "Johnny and I again reviewed the proclamation. He wrote out the orders on carrying firearms and control of shipping. Johnny Ponce Enrile, Gen. (unclear), Gen. Nanadiego, Kit Tatad and I with Paciong Tagum doing the typing finished all the papers (the proclamation and the orders) today (Sept. 21) at 8 p.m."

September's heroes

EVERY DAY WE'RE BOMBARDED WITH NEWS ABOUT scams and scoundrels, making me wonder if perhaps we might end up glorifying these forms of low life. September is particularly problematic as we remember Ferdinand Marcos (whose birthday was on the 11th) and martial law (declared on Sept. 23 but commemorated on Sept. 21 because of Marcos' belief in magical numbers).

Now the Con-

stantino Foundation,

set up by the family

for the late national-

ist historian Renato

Constantino, is offer-

ing a new take on

September through

a project called "Re-

claiming Public Space, Recapturing Memory."

Today, the foundation is turning over murals produced by the art group TutoK to the Makati and San Juan city governments, both with nationalist themes and with the intent of reminding the public about two often forgotten Filipino heroes. One mural, "Byaheng Kasarinlan," will be installed at Ospital ng Makati at 10:30 this morning while "Daiuyong" will be unveiled at 1:30 this afternoon at the San Juan City Hall.

Red Constantino sent me a rough study of the murals and a description which tells me the murals are going to be quite educational in an innovative way. Here's a hint: The road to independence in Makati's mural will include an electric jeep and Macario Sakay commandeering a house. The San Juan mural will have Lean Alejandro in conspiratorial whispers with Emilio Jacinto.

Most readers would recognize Emilio Jacinto's name, but Lean Alejandro and Macario Sakay are not as well known, which is why the Constantino Foundation is pushing for public space to bring forth the unsung heroes of our times.

Rebel barber

Lean Alejandro is, to some extent, still remembered, having been a very visible youth activist during the martial law era, with the University of the Philippines as his base. He was assassinated in 1987, barely a year after the Marcos dictatorship was overthrown, by still unknown gunmen, although it's widely believed he was wiped out by Right-wing forces who were worried about the return of democracy to the Philippines. Lean was only 27.

I wanted to write more about Macario Sakay, who jumped into public awareness all too briefly a few years back with the movie "Sakay," but has since receded from our minds. I was shocked at how little there was in the mass media about his 100th death anniversary last week, Sakay having been executed by the Americans on Sept. 13, 1907.

On the other hand, the silence about Sakay isn't surprising, given the way history is written by the victors. I did find two articles on the internet (do a search using "Sakay" combined with authors "Paul Flores" and "Joseph Scalise") that offer intriguing glimpses into Sakay's life, showing him to be truly a hero for our times. (Do a google search using "Sakay" combined with author "Paul Flores," then another with "Joseph Scalise".)

We know he was born in 1870 in Tondo, but we don't have an exact birthday. Sakay was his mother's surname, which suggests he was born out of wedlock. He worked as a tailor, a barber and an actor in the comedy and moro-moro. He joined the Katipunan and belonged to the faction of Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Jacinto, organizing cells in what is Rizal province today.

After the Americans occupied the Philippines, Sakay moved briefly into legal politics as secretary of the Nacionalista Party, but the Americans passed an Anti-Sedition Law which effectively banned such political parties. Sakay went underground again, was captured in June 1902 but released a month later under an amnesty. Not surprisingly, he returned to guerrilla war, fighting not just the Americans but against Filipinos who he felt had been bought. Together with other guerrillas, he established the Republika ng Katagalugan. Sakay's use of "Tagalog" continued a tradition started by Andres Bonifacio, who preferred the term to "Filipinas" and "Filipino" used by Emilio Aguinaldo and his elite republican forces. Sakay, as president of the Republika ng Katagalugan, issued a proclamation in May 1902 declaring that the country, to include Jolo, Mindanao, Kabite, Cebu, and the Archipelago, would be called "Kapuluang Katagalugan", the Tagalog Archipelago.

Sakay remained in the hills, with support from the local population, and was able to expand their operations to Cavite and Batangas. Sadly, with the help of Filipinos, the Americans were able to trick Sakay to come down from the hills with a promise that he and his soldiers would be granted amnesty and given a chance to work, through an assembly, toward independence. Sakay enjoyed freedom for 13 days, before he was arrested, tried and executed, under the Brigandage Act, a law that ostensibly was against banditry but targeted more political acts.

It is not surprising that Sakay appeals to artists. This barber turned rebel was a non-conformist in many ways. Yes, as he was depicted in the movie, Sakay did grow his hair long, as did his followers, which was considered quite odd in his time. The documents of the Republika ng Katagalugan were also quite direct in their criticism of the Filipino elite and the lack of unity because of their desire for "silver and wealth."

"Loob"

The Tagalog Republic was also clear with its egalitarian views, envisioning a society where no one would be considered better than the other by virtue of skin color, wealth or education. I think the Tagalog version is even more eloquent: "Sino mang tagalog tungkol anak di to sa Kapuluang Katagalugan, ay walang itatanggi sino man tungkol sa dugo gayon din sa kulay ng balat ng isang tao; maputi, maitim, mayaman, dukha, marunong at mangmang lahat ay magkakapantay na walang higit at kulang..."

Sakay called for unity in a very Tagalog way—magkaisa ang loob—an inner unity of the self, and yet transcending one's selfish and sectarian interests.

Sakay's story resonates today for a nation that claims political independence and yet is titillated when America's president calls out to our president, "Hey Gloria." We remain a people divided, our minds and bodies hostage by dreams of leaving the country. Reading about the Brigandage Act reminded me of our current Antiterrorism Law.

Sakay resonates even beyond our borders. I smiled while reading that Sakay's arms and ammunition often came from the Americans, courtesy of the colonizers' *muchachos* (servants). It's not surprising that the Americans today, in Iraq, face a similar problem, their arms finding their way to Iraqi "terrorists."

Today we have buildings and highways named after American colonial officials. The Marcos name has been appended on the national highway and on a state university, and many more major streets are named after him and a bevy of politicians that Sakay would call traitors. There is not a single street in the country, as far as I know, that is named after Sakay. A mural in Makati is a good start at reclaiming public spaces for heroes of our times.

Ateneo's Rizal Library

LOOKING BACK

Amber R Ocampo



THEY SAY THAT IF YOU ASK A FISH TO DESCRIBE ITS SURROUNDINGS, THE LAST THING IT WILL DESCRIBE WILL BE THE WATER.

We also tend to ignore our surroundings and it is only recently that I have re-discovered the Rizal Library of the Ateneo de Manila University that has changed so much since I used it as a college student two decades ago. I don't know why I overlooked the library for so long. Since it is literally within spitting distance from my office window, I wouldn't have had to travel elsewhere to do research for pleasure or for this column.

In the past month, I have begun to explore research centers for fresh material. I visited the National Library to see its newly inaugurated section, which contains the papers of Ferdinand Marcos that may yet provide new ways of looking at the Marcos years. Then there is the Lopez Museum that has a very dynamic exhibition program that gives readers in its signature collection of Filipiniana a respite from research. In years past, there was just the static collection of Rizaliana papers and artifacts that supplemented its famous collection of paintings by Juan Luna and Felix Resurrección Hidalgo on display. I seemed to be the only one interested to see these things more than once, but now that they have asked young artists to give us a contemporary look at these old masters, the galleries have become quite modern, very contemporary.

Closer to work is the University of the Philippines Main Library in Diliman that I visited to survey the various papers in its archives. After I got my first UP faculty library card 19 years ago, I spent whole mornings in the Filipiniana section going through the stacks looking at books individually shelf by shelf to survey the landscape and found materials I did not even know existed.

There were huge dusty scrapbooks in the periodicals section that provided materials arranged by topic. It was there that I read so many obscure but

engaging articles on Rizal. I could only groan and imagine if these scrapbooks had not been compiled and one had to dig up all these periodicals in search of the nation's hero.

The Rizal Library occupies the same white seemingly window-less building that I frequented as an undergraduate student. It now has an annex that used to be called the [Josephine] "Bracken Wing" because, as some wags used to say, "naka-kabut kasi sa Rizal Library." Even then I was already interested in Filipiniana and gained a bit of a reputation after I did a term paper on Nora Aunor that required going over a decade of *komiks* and movie magazines. The librarians gave me a knowing look whenever they saw me, betraying either their loyalty to Nora or Vilma Santos and not knowing that I was not interested in the person. Rather I was studying the behavior of fans who made a cult over a blonde walking doll called Maria Leonora Therese that they hoped and imagined to be the daughter of Nora and her on screen beau Tirso Cruz III. Even then, I couldn't imagine the fanaticism that made a doll a holy relic which they showered with gifts, toys, fan mail and money!When I visited the Filipiniana periodicals section this week, I noticed that they had current items, from the *soyoy* Philippine Tatler to old favorites like *Weekend Magazine*, the Sunday supplement of the defunct *Philippines Daily Express* where I began my writing career deadline racingwith Ricky Lo. This time I was not half as excited over popular magazines and I pored over defunct academic journals like the *Journal of East Asian Studies*. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that they also have an online index to Philippine periodicals that lists all my *Inquirer* columns from the year 2000 or even earlier. This will save me the trouble of listing all my published work.

The Filipiniana section is still in the same place, though the collection is larger and the staff has correspondingly grown bigger. When I used to frequent the place, I knew where I could find the books I needed even without looking. Even today the librarians would laugh when I ask for a book, describing its size, shape and color I would even give a hint to its location by saying upper or lower shelf, but today the books keep shifting so that you have to use the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) that can be consulted from anywhere in the world, thus preparing one for a physical visit to the library.

Checking out books does not mean having to fill out a library card and the yellow cards in brown envelopes at the inside back cover of the books anymore. They swipe your ID and scan bar-codes very much as they do in grocery check-out counters. One wonders where the old yellow cards were placed because in them we have the signatures of previous borrowers, some of them eminent like Horacio de la Costa, Doreen Fernandez, Rolando Tinio and Gilda Cordero Fernando.

The library also houses more than books. There are glass cases filled with prehistoric Philippine earthenware as well as porcelain from China, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand, which prove that we had some link to inter-island trade long before Magellan sailed into our shores. I will leave comment on the Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera Collection and the American Historical Collection for a future column, but I think I must use this resource more.

Comments are welcome at ocampo@ateneo.edu

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Plea for elitist justice

IN RECOMMENDING PARDON OR AMNESTY for former President Joseph Estrada, national security adviser Norberto Gonzales, other high officials of government, the Catholic Church and "civil society" are advocating "elitist justice." Under this kind, there is one law for the rich and another for the poor.

There are thousands of "Jean Valjeans" in our prisons who serve out the full length of their sentences for stealing just a few hundred pesos or just some leaves of bread to feed their children who are hungry, or just to be able to buy medicine for their sick family members. Their basic crime, of course, is poverty.

But if you are a prominent or wealthy person, a former congressman or governor, or the son of such persons, you are pardoned long before your time is up.

In the case of Erap, he has been found guilty of "plundering" hundreds of millions of pesos. But that is not all. He was guilty of "betraying the public trust," of deceiving the millions of people who had voted for him because they believed he was as honest and heroically devoted to the interests of the poor and the oppressed, like the character he had depicted in his movies.

The truth is, our social elite believe they are superior people who are privileged and beyond the pale of law. Contrary to his flicks, Erap also belongs to the elite as his family, which is Spanish-speaking, is upper class.

The masses were fooled but the lack of mass support for Erap after his conviction showed that they have not stayed fooled.

—MANUEL R. ALMARIO,
malmario@yahoo.com

Napocor on IPP rates and 'failed' privatization

WE WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO THE power industry issues raised by Meralco in Neal Cruz's Sept. 10 column.

1. Napocor and Meralco IPP (independent power producer) rates.

Meralco's average cost of power purchased from its IPPs and from the National Power Corp. cannot be fairly compared directly. Meralco buys power from its IPPs on first priority basis, for continuous use and on long-term, guaranteed take-or-pay basis. Conversely, Meralco buys Napocor power for specific, "non-continuous" use. For the period cited in Meralco's response to Cruz's column, Meralco's purchases from Napocor were 80 percent for peak hours (hence, more expensive at an average price of P5.5830/kWh); and only 20 percent of cheaper, off-peak power at P1.9482/kWh—resulting in the average cost of P5.1869 for the month of July 2007.

As a result of Meralco's bilateral contract with its IPPs, the latter are enjoying plant utilization factors ranging from 85 to 95 percent, while Napocor plants are used only 50 to 60 percent. Additionally, WESEM statistics show that while the Meralco IPPs contribute only 18 percent to the installed capacity in the Luzon grid, it enjoys a 35 percent share of the energy sales volume.

In the interest of reducing the generation charge, Napocor is willing to sign guaranteed bilateral contracts with Meralco on the same terms applied to Meralco IPPs at a maximum price of only P3.65/kWh, or 10 percent lower than the claimed P4.17/kWh of First Gas Sta.

Rita, P3.79/kWh of PGP San Lorenzo, and the lowest P3.76/kWh of Quezon Power.

2. Privatization of Napocor generation assets.

Napocor does not have control of and neither has it any say in the privatization of its generation assets which are now under the ownership of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), as mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA). Accusations that Napocor is sabotaging the country's privatization are unfair, misplaced and totally untrue.

For now, Napocor's role is to assure the continued supply of power while the privatization program is being implemented. It is limited only to the operation and maintenance of unsold generation assets, and to the continuing provision of fuel supply as required by its IPP contracts.

The failure of past privatization efforts (of the 600-MW Calaca Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant and the delay in the 640-MW Masinloc Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant) were more the result of the lack of bidders due to the absence of long-term power supply agreements that need to be attached to the power assets. The transition supply contracts that are currently allowed by the EPIRA are apparently not long enough for genuine IPPs. Eventually, after resolving these issues, Masinloc was successfully bid out, and at a good price, while Calaca is now scheduled for bidding.

—DENNIS S. GANA,
manager, Corporate Communications,
National Power Corporation

Unfair headline and reporting?

DURING THE FIRST THREE months of the trial of my case, the prosecution had done its worst and fulfilled all its evil designs. My constitutional rights were brutally violated; grave abuse of discretion, extreme haste and complete disregard of judicial courtesy were committed by the authorities.

I realize that competition for the most sensational news helped the prosecution in pillorying me. But I was hoping that after the court ruled there was no sufficient evidence against me, the situation would change.

Unfortunately, it did not, at least in view of the Inquirer's Aug. 22 story on the latest development regarding my case in court.

The headline of that story read, "Prosecution, defense junk plea bargain in Leviste aide killing." This was unfair, for several reasons. First, the latest development in the case is that the court junked the prosecution's motion for reconsideration seeking to recall my right to bail. Second, I did not seek a plea bargain, to begin with, so the prosecution could not have "junked" it.

The reports that came out on

the same day in other newspapers were more fair and accurate. For instance, the Malaya headlined the story as "Court denies DOJ bid to revoke Leviste's bail." Manila Standard reported "Leviste bail bond hounds." The Manila Times reported "RTC junked DOJ vs Leviste petition."

I have always held the Inquirer in high esteem for its objectivity and fairness, which I still believe to be in accordance with its editorial policy. I do not seek special favor—only that the truth be reported fairly and objectively.

The case is still in progress. There will be more developments. I hope the succeeding reports in the Inquirer will be treated more fairly.

—J. ANTONIO LEVISTE

My report never implied that the defense had sought a plea bargain; in fact, based on my interview with the lawyers, I said both the defense and prosecution did not want it. The fact that my news angle differed from the other papers does not make the story any less fair and accurate.

—DJ YAP,
reporter, Inquirer

'Super-plunder' dwarfs Erap's guilt

THE MAIN REASON THE GREAT majority of the Filipino people is not taking seriously the guilty verdict on Joseph Estrada is not that Estrada is not guilty; it is that his guilt is overshadowed by the in-

cumbent First Family's monstrous and incomparable guilt of "super-plunder."

—JOSE JACINTO,
1134 Clifton Ave.,
Clifton, NJ 07012, USA

Dark past sliding fast into the future

MANUEL L. QUEZON III's column titled "Marcos in retrospect" (Inquirer, 9/17/07) was really interesting. It brought back the sad memories of the past Marcos years of terror, and of the days of my youth way back in the 1960s and 1970s.

I was about 10 or 12 years old when Quezon's late grandfather, together with his secretary Jorge Vargas, visited the newly built hospital in my hometown in Binalagan, Negros Occidental.

He was all "dignity." He was a commanding figure, wearing knee-length boots and jacket befitting a president. He was my hero.

I am 82 years old now and I am disappointed in how our beloved country seems to be sliding toward a situation where killing, rape, robbery, kidnapping and

bombing are an everyday occurrence, while politicians are running the government as if it were solely their own and not the people's. Enriching themselves while in office seems to be our politicians' obsession. Nepotism is one cause of the breakdown of law and order in our country.

In the very near future, we shall see barangays, towns, cities in the hands of warlords not much different from those in Middle Eastern countries such as Iraq, where the politicians and the members of their families, protected by a private army loyal only to them, lord it over the people.

Need I say more? Can't we do something to stop political dynasties? Or is it too late?

—L.A. MARCIAL,
lamarcial000@yahoo.com.ph

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Spate of motorbike accidents alarms DOH

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) yesterday expressed alarm over the growing mortality rate in motorcycle accidents in the country, the highest, it pointed out, among motor vehicles.

In a Forum on Road Safety for Motorcycle Riders held yesterday morning in Quezon City, Undersecretary for Health Operations Dr. Ethelyn Nieto said, "We should already be alarmed by the statistics."

Nieto called attention to records of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Traffic Operations Center Metropolitan Road Safety Unit, which said that from January to December 2006, motorcycles "have the highest fatality accident rate with 122 motorcycles involved or 23.60 percent of the total fatal accidents, followed by cars with 113 total or 21.86 percent."

Nieto also cited statistics from the Traffic Management Group (TMG), which said that out of the 14,202 traffic accidents in 2004, 3,010 or 21 percent, involved motorcycles. The num-

bers rose the following year to 24 percent or 2,798 out of 11,425 accidents.

"In the first two months of 2006 alone, the TMG recorded a total of 485 motorcycle accidents out of the total 1,364 accidents which accounted for 35 percent of total traffic accidents," the report said.

Taken for granted

Nieto said that the implementation of safety precautions for motorcycle riders had been taken for granted even in the face of Land Transportation Office records from 2004 to 2006 which disclosed that motorcycles currently ranked third in motor vehicle registration next to cars.

"Unless we do something, the fatalities (in motorcycle accidents) could double by 2020," Nieto said.

The undersecretary proposed a review of existing policies particularly on helmet use as the most effective solution to reduce fatalities in motorcycle accidents.

She said that the DOH and the World Health Organization (WHO) were promoting the use of helmets

through a multi-sector approach. "Road safety is a must with 3.5 million motorcycles in the country," Nieto said.

She said that the leading causes of motorcycle accidents included the absence of safety equipment, overloading, over speeding and reckless driving, as when motorcycle riders wove in and out of traffic.

Vital to safety

The use of helmets, Nieto said, was vital to road safety, adding that the head and neck of a motorcycle rider needed to be protected. She also said that an increase in motorcycle visibility and enhanced motorist awareness could save lives.

For his part, Dr. Soe Nyunt-U, WHO Representative in the Philippines, said: "Next to assault, road traffic crashes are the second leading cause of injury death for all ages. Studies have shown that motorcyclists are the second most vulnerable road-user group next to pedestrians."

"Wearing a helmet is the single most effective way of reducing head injuries and fatalities resulting from motorcy-

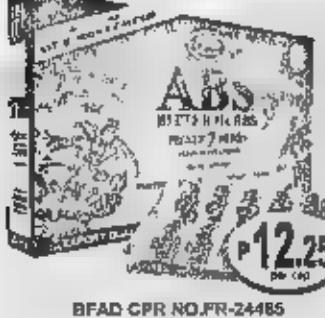
cle and bicycle crashes. Motorcyclists who do not wear helmets are at a much higher risk of sustaining head injuries and from dying from these injuries," the WHO representative said.

He proposed the introduction of legislation making helmet use obligatory and the launch-

ing of widespread education campaigns for both the members of the community and traffic enforcers. He suggested that the government could provide incentives and reduce disincentives, such as subsidies and exemptions of helmets from taxes, to encourage helmet use.

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COMIC RELIEF (at left): Spot some of the Cabinet officials in the Senate gallery. Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol, DENR Secretary Lito Atienza, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. Blue ribbon committee chair Sen. Alan Cayetano referred to Apostol as "your wetness" (as in the days of the Estrada Impeachment), which cracked up the hall.

EDWIN BACASMAS



CELEBRITY DUET: Members of Freedom from Debt Coalition introduce a new alphabet song about the mystery man in the \$329-M NBN-ZTE deal during a press conference on Thursday.

JOAN BONDOC



TO TELL THE TRUTH: Secretaries of DOTC Mendoza and of Trade Peter Favila and DOTC Asst. Sec. Arnel Soneja.



MORAL SUPPORT: Though not summoned by the Senate, Cabinet men galore are there to back up their colleague DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

EDWIN BACASMAS

'Wack Wack meet chance encounter'

By Dona Pazzibugan

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY Leandro Mendoza yesterday confirmed that the Wack Wack meeting took place, but gave a version different from that offered by Jose Miguel Arroyo, husband of the President.

While he confirmed the meeting, Mendoza denied Jose "Joey" de Venecia III's claim that Arroyo had angrily told him to "back off" the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

"There was a chance encounter between Joey de Venecia and the First Gentleman in my presence in Wack Wack," Mendoza said at the second hearing of the Senate on the \$329-million contract for the NBN project won by China's ZTE Corp.

Mendoza said he was talking to De Venecia when Arroyo arrived. Arroyo did not know who De Venecia was, according to the transportation secretary.

"In the process, I think they talked. The first question of the First Gentleman was, 'Who is he?' I told him he was Joey de Venecia. He asked, 'What is he doing here?' He's one of the proponents of the DOTC (project)," replied Mendoza.

He said Arroyo's comment was, "Why is he doing that? That's illegal. He's the son of the

Speaker. That's irregular." Mendoza said Arroyo "walked away" without raising his voice at De Venecia. He said in all the years he had known Arroyo, "I never saw him get angry."

He described Arroyo as "mild-mannered, mahinahan (calm)."

But Mendoza portrayed De Venecia as someone who dogged him and went to see him at his office "several times" to follow up on his firm's unsolicited NBN proposal. De Venecia is the founder-owner of Amsterdam Holdings Inc.

Before his reply to Sen. Joker Arroyo's question, Mendoza did not categorically confirm the meeting referred to by De Venecia when he was asked by Sen. Jamby Madrigal.

Mendoza hedged when Madrigal asked him point-blank if he was at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club with Arroyo, Absolos, Jimmy Paz, Ruben Reyes, Quirino de la Torre, Leo San Miguel and De Venecia in mid-March, as De Venecia had claimed.

"I don't know the exact date," Mendoza said, adding that as president of the National Golf Association he usually went to Wack Wack.

"I saw Joey De Venecia at Wack Wack during one of those dates. There was a day when Mike [Arroyo] was there. There was a day when Joey was there. The others, I'll try to recall," he said.



STAR WITNESS: Lorenzo Formoso III, DOTC Assistant Secretary for Telecommunications, knows a lot more than his boss.

EDWIN BACASMAS

BOMB THREAT: Senate employees return to their offices after a bomb threat received by the office of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano turned out to be a dud.

EDWIN BACASMAS

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The question is...

From page A1

tioned how the contract could be considered an executive agreement when there was no loan obtained.

"When you sought the legal opinion of the Department of Justice, you were not sure whether it was a contract or an executive agreement?" said Lacson, who noted that in all prior legal opinions of the DOJ, a loan agreement was a must for an executive agreement.

Loan prerequisite

Since there was no loan agreement, Lacson said there could not have been an executive agreement and therefore the supply contract should have been covered by the mandatory bidding rule.

"A loan is a prerequisite for it to become a loan agreement," said Lacson.

When Mendoza could not answer Lacson's demand for a definitive answer on the true nature of the supply contract, Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras III and Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya basically parroted what Mendoza said—that the contract was an executive agreement that would only take effect upon the approval of a loan deal with China.

Five steps

Sen. Miriam Santiago summed up questions on the process involved in completing a government-to-government agreement on a loan-tied project.

She asked Mendoza if the process involved the following:

1. After the executive agreement is signed, the Department of Budget and Management will issue a forward obligation authority (FOA) saying the government has

the resources to pay the proposed loan.

2. Having received the FOA, Malacañang gives the go-signal to the Department of Finance (DOF) to negotiate a loan for the project.

3. The DOF talks to its foreign counterpart to finalize the loan.

4. The Monetary Board reviews the loan agreement.

5. Congress then approves the budget for the loan.

Santiago also asked if, usually, the supply contract was signed after these steps had been completed.

Mendoza agreed. However, he clarified that the sequence sometimes changes depending on the rules of the foreign financial institution extending the loan.

"In Japan, for example, with JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation), the executive agreement comes before the supply contract.

But with China's Eximbank, it wants the conditional supply contract first," Mendoza said.

Exchange of notes

Citing the Supreme Court ruling in *Abaya v. Ebdane*, Paras said his office took into consideration not only the loan but also the exchange of notes between the Japanese ambassador and the Philippine foreign secretary, which was similar to the exchange of notes between the Chinese ambassador and then Presidential Chief of Staff Michael De- fensor.

As an executive agreement and a foreign project, the deal was not only exempt from public bidding but also from the election ban on projects which needed the approval of Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Commission on Elections, Andaya said.

"The contract signed by Secretary Mendoza is unenforceable at this time until there is a loan agreement," said Andaya.

China's Eximbank

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano pointed out that in the reconstituted contract, it was clearly stated that "an executive agreement was entered into" between the Philippines and China to bankroll the NBN through a loan agreement with the Export-Import Bank of China on the condition that the equipment and services came from ZTE.

The contract was reconstituted in May after copies of the contract (one for the Department of Transportation and Communications [DOTC] and one for ZTE) were lost on the day they were signed.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. lectured the lawyer of the DOTC who had drafted the contract.

"Make sure your client is not put into trouble by the erroneous use of language. It is so patent to grade school pupils that it defies the credibility of this chamber. Why use 'was' when there is no contract? The wording is not based on the Supreme Court ruling but based on the fact before you," said Pimentel. "You are fudging facts here. Somebody is trying to pull our leg here."

Cayetano said that the contract was misleading—from ZTE's point of view. Based on the contract, there was an executive agreement while the DOTC claimed there was none.

Cayetano noted that if the contract was subject to the loan and the loan never came, "you would have violated the procurement law because there was no bidding."

Cayetano said that the contract was misleading—from ZTE's point of view. Based on the contract, there was an executive agreement while the DOTC claimed there was none.

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Favila deviates from official line

By Dona Pazzibugan

TRADE SECRETARY PETER Favila last night deviated from the Arroyo administration's official line of pushing through with the \$329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project won by China's ZTE Corp.

In the only time that he was asked during the hearing, Favila said he was open to modifying or even rescinding the government-to-government loan contract due to the anomalies that have cropped up.

Among the Cabinet officials who attended the hearing,

Favila was the only one who indicated that he was wavering about pursuing the contract at all.

He said he would talk to his Chinese counterpart, Trade Minister Bo Xilai, to discuss other options to undertake the NBN project, including its "cancellation or abrogation."

The Chinese government had offered to finance the NBN project.

Favila said he had informed his Chinese counterpart about the temporary restraining order issued by the Supreme Court while it decides whether or not the contract is disadvantageous

to the government.

Favila was replying to Sen. Joker Arroyo's question whether it was "worth it" for the government to insist on the loan contract which has "cost us too much stress, so much conflict."

"The minister (Bo) said he understands the rule of law has to be observed. And I would like to believe I got an opening when I reminded him that we need to wait for the Supreme Court ruling," he said.

Favila said that after hearing the discussions at the Senate inquiry and getting the opinions of colleagues, the business sec-

tor, the academe and the media, he decided to raise the matter with Bo.

"It is worth exploring with my counterpart what these options and variations (are). I heard about BOO (build-operate-own), BOT (build-operate-transfer), cancellation, abrogation and so on and so forth," he said.

"At least at my level, I will, I am prepared, to bring this up and discuss this with him thoroughly. I just cannot second-guess what they [the Chinese government] have to say but I'll be more than happy to report to you, your honors," he said.

Mendoza claims JDV lobbied hard for AHI

From page A1

Mendoza said he, the Speaker and his son were at the table when they discussed the advantages of AHI's proposal.

"I just told them that it is under evaluation," the secretary said.

Mendoza said that when the Speaker made a pitch for his son's offer early this year, "we were already evaluating a number of proposals."

In the course of the meeting at the De Venecia residence in Makati, Mendoza said the Speaker described the NBN project as "very good for the country."

After the hearing, the younger De Venecia reiterated his claim that it was Mendoza who came to his father's house and that he only dropped by without knowing that Mendoza would be there.

In his affidavit, De Venecia III said that in March, he went to his father's house where he chanced upon Mendoza, who was asking the Speaker to support his son's congressional bid in Batangas.

Mendoza's son won and is now member of the House of Representatives.

Opportunity

The younger De Venecia said he saw Mendoza's presence at his father's house as an opportunity and approached the DOTC secretary to discuss the NBN.

"Secretary Mendoza responded by saying, 'your project, Joey, is a big problem as Chairman [Benjamin] Abalos [of the Commission on Elections] is so angry at you and wants the NBN project for himself,'" the affidavit said.

The younger De Venecia has accused Abalos of brokering the ZTE deal in exchange for a commission and of trying to bribe him with \$10 million to back out of the NBN project.

Abalos arranged ZTE meet

He gave the same account on Tuesday, the first Senate hearing on the \$329-million contract for the NBN project won by China's ZTE contract.

Finance Secretary Margarito

Teves told the Senate hearing that Abalos also arranged a meeting between him and ZTE officials last year.

Teves said he again met with Abalos, who was with Mendoza and ZTE officials, at Wack Wack sometime this year.

"I was invited by Mendoza. Abalos was there. He didn't say anything [about the NBN project]. We were trying to talk to the ZTE [officials]. They want ed to find out what was happening with the loan [agreement]," the finance secretary said.

Mendoza's version

Mendoza, however, gave a different version of the meeting, insisting that Abalos had played no part in the NBN transaction.

He told the hearing that the meeting was arranged by the ZTE officials who wanted to meet with him at Wack Wack. Mendoza said he also invited Teves.

Asked what Abalos' role was, he said, "Hindi ko po alam. Ang nag-invite sa akin ay ZTE. Palabas-labas siya (I don't know. I was invited by ZTE. [Abalos] went in and out of the room) "

Teves said they met in a small function room at Wack Wack.

Teves' disclosure came shortly before the hearing ended at 9 p.m. Throughout the hearing Mendoza insisted that Abalos had never discussed the NBN project with him.

Hanging around

After being introduced to the Speaker's son, Mendoza told the senators that "he (Joey) went to my office several times and I introduced him to the technical working group."

He claimed that he saw the younger De Venecia "hanging around" on several occasions while he (Mendoza) was performing his social and official obligations.

Mendoza denied that he went to the house of the Speaker to enlist his support for his son's candidacy in the May elections.

Finance Secretary Margarito

Mendoza admitted that some politicians do approach him and make recommendations on projects.

He said that as much as possible, he tries to "accommodate them diplomatically," but the "accommodation is just to talk to them but not to (influence) the result."

Agile group

During her turn to question Mendoza, Santiago cited a paper by University of the Philippines economics professors Raul Fabella and Emmanuel de Dios that said that the country did not need another broadband network.

Citing "raw data," Santiago indicated that the paper was funded by an American non-government organization, Agile (Accelerating Growth, Investment and Liberalization with Equity), which was linked to one of the losing proponents of the NBN project, Arescom, an American firm.

Fabella last night denied that the paper he cowrote with De Dios was funded by Agile, a US-funded program put up in 1998

that pools mostly Filipino experts to provide technical services or advice to Philippine government agencies.

Demolition strategy

"Of course, it is false. That's a demolition strategy," Fabella said of Santiago's allegation when contacted by the INQUIRER.

Santiago said the NBN deal could be the victim of geopolitical rivalry between China and the United States.

Upon the prodding of Santiago, Mendoza related that Agile was indeed one of the groups that had been disparaging the NBN deal.

Santiago went on to belittle AHI's capability to implement the NBN project by asking how a company with an authorized capital stock of P5 million could bid for a project worth P12 billion.

Mendoza said this was the reason a technical working group came to the conclusion that the government could not act on AHI's bid because it lacked the necessary requirements.

Ex-Magdalo lawyer sues JDV for breach of ethics

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA yesterday became the subject of an ethics case in connection with his failure to stop his son from getting involved in the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

It also raised the ethical issue of congressional franchises being awarded to Jose "Joey" de Venecia III's firm, Multi-Media Telephony Inc., during the Speaker's second term as House leader in 1995 and in 1996.

Ruel Pulido, a lawyer who represented the young officers involved in the Oakwood mutiny of 2003, filed the verified complaint before the House committee on ethics at 10 a.m. He claimed he did so independently of any interest in the NBN deal.

Sworn affidavit

Pulido's case stemmed from De Venecia III's sworn affidavit wherein the Speaker's son said that he, his father and Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos once had breakfast at the Speaker's residence in Makati to discuss the broadband project.

"You saw a crime being committed inside your house. It's your obligation to prevent that crime happening," Pulido said.

Pulido referred to Joey's involvement in the NBN project as a major stockholder in NBN bidder Amsterdam Holdings Inc. AHI lost the \$329-million project to ZTE Corp. under allegedly questionable circumstances.

Still, under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Pulido said, Joey



FORMAL COMPLAINT: Lawyer Ruel Pulido asks the House committee on ethics and privileges to discipline Speaker De Venecia for failing to stop his son from pursuing a government contract. Trouble is, the House has not gotten around to organizing such a committee.

No ethics committee yet

Pulido also charged that there was an ethical issue when Congress with De Venecia as Speaker of the House awarded a radio paging franchise to Joey's Multi-Media Telephony Inc. in 1995.

He said that since the radio paging franchise was not enough for Joey's company, Congress in 1997 awarded MTI a franchise for broadband services.

House secretary general Roberto Nazareno said the House committee on ethics has yet to be organized. Norman Bordadora



THE CENTER OF CONTROVERSY, and the man who started it all, Jose de Venecia III, is mobbed by the media before the start of the second day of the Senate hearing on the NBN deal.

ROGER MARGALLO

Speaker now accused of cornering contracts

From page A1

elations about kickbacks in the \$329-million NBN deal that was finally awarded to the Chinese firm ZTE.

"It is the duty of the Speaker in the interest of transparency to disclose all contracts and projects that he, or through his companies, had been able to obtain from the government," Villafuerte told the INQUIRER.

"He should do this rather than wait for other persons to disclose them and let the issue blow up in his face," the Camarines Sur representative said.

Villafuerte said he had information about these contracts and would divulge them in due time.

"There are several [contracts]," he said, without elaborating.

Asked if these were cornered during the Arroyo administration, he replied: "Even before."

Villafuerte, president of President Macapugay-Arroyo's Kabilikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party, belongs to a faction of Kampi which sought to challenge De Venecia's bid for a fifth term as Speaker at the start of the 14th Congress.

The other faction, led by Kampi chair and Interior Secre-

tary Ronaldo Puno, backed De Venecia.

If indeed the Speaker was involved in contracts with the government, Villafuerte said there could be a violation of the antigraft law.

Antigraft law

Section 5 of this law has been cited by Ms Arroyo's allies to go after the younger De Venecia, who had implicated First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in the NBN project. The younger De Venecia's Amsterdam Holdings Inc. lost out to ZTE.

The law declares as "unlawful for the spouse or for any relative, by consanguinity or affinity, within the third civil degree," of the President of the Philippines, the Vice President, Senate President and House Speaker "to intervene, directly or indirectly, in any business, transaction, contract or application with the government."

Day of reckoning

But the rule does not apply to people who had been "already dealing with the government along the same line of business" before their relatives assumed any of the positions identified by law.

Also yesterday, three adminis-



VILLAFUERTE: I'll divulge them at proper time.

the specter of a "reckoning day" in the wake of De Venecia III's testimony before a Senate inquiry on Tuesday implicating the President's husband in the NBN deal with China.

"I hope we won't reach that point, but all signs lead to that direction unless the Speaker's son shuts up," Bacolod Rep. Monico

Puentevella told the INQUIRER.

Puentevella referred to the eventuality when members of the House of Representatives would have to choose between President Arroyo and De Venecia.

House Majority Leader Arthur

Defensor said congressional allies were avoiding the prospect of having to "form two lines—one for the President and another one for the Speaker."

"We are aware of the dangers and consequences of disrupting the peace [within the coalition]," Defensor told the INQUIRER. "It will have far-reaching effects."

Choice between son and GMA

Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia said there were a number of administration lawmakers trying to keep their loyalty to both the President and the Speaker. "But at some point, we would all have to make a choice."

Garcia, a Kampi stalwart, said the decision should first come from De Venecia, especially since the controversy was started by the Senate testimony of his son.

"It was a direct attack against the First Gentleman and it was also a direct attack against the President," the 81-year-old Garcia told the INQUIRER.

Defensor said he met with De Venecia about legislative matters. He admitted that the matter of the speakership—said to be under threat as a result of the younger De Venecia's accusation against the First Gentleman—was eventually tackled.

"We're also monitoring if

there are movements," he said, referring to the possibility of allies abandoning ship.

Lawmakers troop to Palace

"So far, De Venecia has been conveniently ambiguous on the matter. But soon he will have to answer the question. Will he support his son or the President?"

To avoid a collision course

with Ms Arroyo, around 130 lawmakers trooped to Malacañang late Wednesday night to "rally behind the President," Garcia said.

Garcia, who was present in the dinner in Malacañang, said the gathering was partly organized by Ms Arroyo's son in the House, Representatives Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and Diodato "Dalo" Arroyo.

"There was a show of support for the President because of all the controversies she is facing now," said Puentevella, who also attended the dinner.

Earlier that evening, Defensor said he met with De Venecia about legislative matters. He admitted that the matter of the speakership—said to be under threat as a result of the younger De Venecia's accusation against the First Gentleman—was eventually tackled.

"We're also monitoring if

there are movements," he said, referring to the possibility of allies abandoning ship.

Small talk

Defensor also warned colleagues: "He who tries to destroy the House will inherit the wind."

At the Malacañang dinner, Garcia said discussions about

the impact of De Venecia III's revelations on the balance of power in the House were limited to "small talk" among congressmen.

Puentevella said Ms Arroyo arrived later in the evening to deliver a one-minute statement thanking the lawmakers for coming. He said the President then went around the tables to greet the congressmen.

"There was a feeling among the lawmakers," said Garcia, "that the Speaker should react to the issue in a manner which will not be on a collision course with the President."

<p

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6 customs execs charged in smuggling

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AT THE SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, BRAND NEW LUXURY cars carry a price tag of less than P100,000. But government investigators are not buying it.

The Department of Finance yesterday filed with the Office of the Ombudsman graft charges against six Bureau of Customs personnel in connection with the smuggling of 14 luxury vehicles which were appraised at only about P1 million six months ago.

Charged were Josephine Dulay, acting chief of the certificate of payment unit of the BOC-Subic; custom examiners Orlando Ronquillo, Russo Mallan and Enrico Cruz and principal appraisers Ebrahim Pangkatan and Rodolfo Casia.

More investigation

RIPS lawyer Romeo Tomas Jr. disclosed that five higher officials of the BOC were still being investigated.

The six BOC employees were accused of conspiring with one another to release the P37-million worth of luxury vehicles without

proper payment of tax obligations.

The filing of charges came a month following the demolition of 18 smuggled cars at the Clark Freeport Zone upon the order of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Based on the 18-page complaint, 16 high-end luxury cars were smuggled out of the holding area of the Hidemitsu Trading Corp., a locator within the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, without payment of proper custom taxes and duties.

Showroom cars

This was a report, dated Feb. 10, 2007, submitted by Alfonso Dominguez, then chair of the board and authorized representative of the corporation, to the BOC.

Fourteen of the cars were found in several showrooms or private residences outside the SBMA after the Task Force Anti-Smuggling

Special Operations Group conducted surveillance operations.

Two of the cars have not been shipped out of the free port, the task force found later. These were eventually forfeited in favor of the government.

The complaint also showed that three brand new Audi 8L were only priced at \$2,100 each (or roughly P96,600 each); a Chevrolet Corvette at \$1,600 (P73,600) and three BMW 750Li at \$1,600 each (P72,500 each).

But the cars' actual "blue book value" were placed at \$72,090 (P3.2 million); \$51,535 (P2.34 million) and \$78,100 (P3.53 million).

Other cars

These, and seven other luxury cars, which included Acuras, Infinity SUVs and Nissan Armadas, were allegedly estimated by the respondents to be worth P1 million, showing an undervaluation of almost P37 million, or 90 percent of their actual value, read the complaint.

The accused also allegedly declared the cars as "used" or "second-hand vehicles" contrary to their real condition.



MEMBERS of the PNP Regional Mobile Group view the engine of a Lincoln Navigator which had flat tire (first car, black) and other cars lined up before the start of the destruction of 18 smuggled cars held at the Naval Supply Depot, Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales.

LTN PHILIP

Sorsogon City sounds alarm over losses from red tide

SORSOGON CITY—THE CITY government has sounded the alarm as losses continued to mount, now reaching P70 million, as a result of the persistent presence of red tide at the Sorsogon Bay.

City Mayor Leovic Dioneda said the recent consultative meeting among local government units that suffered the plague's effects gave a picture of the worsening condition of the bay, which had brought hardship to more than 6,000 families.

He said the figure represented the losses incurred by the fishermen as well as losses incurred by local businessmen who export shell fish products to Metro Manila and abroad.

Piling up

Dioneda invited the local officials of Magallanes, Casiguran, Juban and Castilla towns to a meeting, together with officials from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Bicol University Research and Development Center, in an attempt to come up with a comprehensive solution.

The mayor said the economic losses, as well as the number of families who lost income, continued to pile up daily.

As a result of the red tide, the BFAF has imposed a shell fish ban at the bay since September last year.

SOS

Dioneda said the city government was already being swamped by urgent requests for assistance as thousands of families face a grim future.

The city government has already declared a state of calamity to be able to respond to the basic needs of its constituents like food and medicines.

The city council has authorized the release of P15 million on a staggered basis as the fund becomes available.

Dioneda has issued a directive to concerned city government offices to check the social impact of the red tide on local communities following reports from barangay officials that women and children are leaving their homes in search for menial jobs elsewhere.

Cleanup

"We don't want our constituents to be ripped apart by this plague so we will try as best we could to help them in their livelihood," he said.

"The immediate assistance that we could possibly extend is through the food-for-work program, which is now being drawn up by the city agriculture and city social welfare offices," Dioneda added.

A coastal cleanup has been set this coming Saturday. Bobby La-
balan, Inquirer Southern Luzon



SHRINKING FARMS

Farming areas in Bontoc, Mt. Province are getting smaller and smaller as more and more houses are built on rice fields.

ELMER KRISTIAN DALOCOY/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

1 dead, 3 missing as heavy rains pound Antique

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A PERSON drowned and three others, including two children, remained missing in Antique as heavy and continuous rains brought by typhoons Falcon and Goring triggered landslides and flash floods in Western Visayas.

Rescuers found the remains of Richard Banesio, 21, in Barangay Bugnay in Valderrama town in Antique Sunday af-

ter he was covered by debris when a landslide occurred while he was on his way home, according to a report yesterday of the Antique Public Safety and Disaster Management Center.

The three missing included Edmar Jauod, 10, and Rizza Operiano, 9, of Bugasong town who were carried away by waters while crossing the Pangalcan River in Bugasong.

Analyn Laude, 28, of Barangay Macarina in Patnongan town also went missing after

she was carried by rampaging waters of the Macarina Creek.

Broderick Train, executive officer of the Antique Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said 22 families or 67 persons were evacuated Wednesday afternoon from Barangay San Antonio in Barbaza town after the Dala River overflowed.

The families have been relocated to the barangay hall and health center, he said.

In Iloilo City, Mayor Jerry Treñas and City and School

Superintendent Erlinda Gencaya yesterday issued an order suspending classes in the elementary and high school levels in both public and private schools as major parts of the city were flooded.

Rescue groups and disaster response teams have been alerted for the possible evacuation of residents living beside rivers.

Traffic stalled in many areas after vehicles were stranded in flooded streets.

vital communications installations.

Bron said they were investigating possible lapses in security

and if the areas where the attacks happened are within the jurisdiction of the police.

Lapses

On Monday night, about 20 heavily-armed NPA members burned a Globe Telecommunications cell site in Barangay Batang in Pamplona town and its relay station in Barangay Tinangguhan in Libmanan town, both in Camarines Sur.

The burning of the relay station near the Maharlite Highway damaged its detachable cabin worth P1.6 million.

Police said the burning of the cell site caused damages of at

least P150,000.

NPA attack

Sgt. Armando Escote, officer in charge of the 21st Civil Relations Unit of the Armed Forces in Bicol, cited intelligence reports as saying that the attacks were due to the company's refusal to pay "revolutionary taxes" to the NPA.

Earlier, NPA members attacked a Globe tower in Barangay Sangan in Bulusan, Sorsogon, on Friday. One guard was wounded.

Bron said that they would also review the memorandum of agreement between the police and the Armed Forces regarding areas of responsibility since remote areas are usually the concern of the military.

Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

New sighting of RP eagles encourages conservation

PEÑABLANCA, CAGAYAN—At least three new sightings of the endangered Philippine eagle (*Pithecopaga jefferyi*) were recorded recently at the Peñablanca protected landscape and seashore here, prompting conservationists to be upbeat on efforts to protect the national bird.

Dr. Artemio Antolin, Conservation International (CI) biodiversity corridor program director, said the sightings came following seven sightings along the Northern Sierra Madre natural park in Isabela.

Logging survivors

"These Philippine eagles have been seen but their nesting and breeding sites have yet to be identified. This information is promising... even though commercial logging had been rampant in the 1970s to the 1980s along the Sierra Madre mountain ranges," he said.

The Philippine eagle, a forest raptor described as one of the three most critically endangered species in the world, belongs to the 118 species of birds seen in the Peñablanca protected area, Antolin said.

At least 56 species, or 47 percent, of the birds in the park are endemic, he added.

Endemic owls

CI records said at least 174 species of fauna (birds, doves, reptiles and bats) have been recorded in the park, with 54 percent of them classified as endemic.

Four endemic owls have been seen in the park.

"The park possesses a wealth of biological diversity. In fact, it is one of the most important bird areas worldwide and a conservation priority in the country," Antolin said.

Antolin and other CI officials last week entered into a reforestation agreement with the Toyota Motor Corp., the Peñablanca local government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the 1,772 hectare reforestation project in five villages in Peñablanca's protected landscape and seashore.

Earlier, NPA members attacked a Globe tower in Barangay Sangan in Bulusan, Sorsogon, on Friday. One guard was wounded.

Bron said that they would also review the memorandum of agreement between the police and the Armed Forces regarding areas of responsibility since remote areas are usually the concern of the military.

"The forest of Peñablanca is a haven of endemic flora and fauna that is the richest in the world and considered as one of the country's last remaining old growth and mossy forests," Antolin said. Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Cops ask telcos for help vs NPAs

ing near their cell sites to relay information on attacks that were being prepared by the guerrillas.

Villagers' help

Two provincial police directors in Bicol may face administrative charges for failure to preempt the attacks on vital installations despite standing orders by Senior Supt. Ballig Agnanay Tira, Bicol police director, to tighten security against communist guerrilla attacks by New People's Army rebels.

Communist guerrillas were tagged responsible for the recent bombing of cellular phone sites in the provinces of Sorsogon and Camarines Sur.

Senior Supt. Eliciar Bron, Bicol police spokesperson, said while it was the responsibility of the police and the military to ensure security in these vital installations, private telecommunications firms should do their share.

Bron said the police have recommended that telecommunications firms provide cellular phones to selected villagers liv-

ing near their cell sites to relay information on attacks that were being prepared by the guerrillas.

Lapses

On Monday night, about 20 heavily-armed NPA members burned a Globe Telecommunications cell site in Barangay Batang in Pamplona town and its relay station in Barangay Tinangguhan in Libmanan town, both in Camarines Sur.

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NEWS

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Esperon bares new anti-gov't plot

ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN. HERMOGENES Esperon Jr. has confirmed that the government has uncovered a new plot to destabilize the government.

Esperon told reporters authorities have been monitoring attempts to recruit officers and men once again for destabilization attempts, using "flimsy" and "old" issues against the military.

Esperon did not identify those behind the recruitment, citing "operational purposes."

But he said he was confident the attempt to get soldiers to turn against the government

would fail.

Moreover, he said those recruited were also always abandoned by the destabilizers.

"Too bad for them [the destabilizers], our soldiers are imbued with the idea that it is only through the chain of command that we should be performing our duties," Esperon said.

Esperon spoke to reporters after a thanksgiving Mass at Camp

Aguinaldo for the peaceful promulgation of the Sandiganbayan antigrift court verdict on the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Estrada was convicted on two counts of plunder and sentenced to life imprisonment last Sept. 12, but an expected mass protest by his loyalists, for which the military and the police placed some 6,000 troops on alert, did not materialize.

Esperon said the alleged destabilizers have never stopped recruiting officers and enlisted personnel, through meetings or text messages, and have gone so

far as to offer "monetary rewards" to those who would join.

"If there is such offer [of money], it must be leading to something that is illegal," Esperon said.

Esperon said the recruiters use issues such as "matters of welfare of men," procurement of military equipment, and the AFP modernization program, which he said the military leadership has already addressed.

Esperon did not discount the possibility that the "destabilizers" would capitalize on the controversial national broadband network deal that is now being investigated by the Senate.

He said the military organization is "mature enough" so that soldiers are aware of the issues. "They know what is right," he said.

"On the whole, your Armed Forces does not preoccupy itself with this because that's the job of the Senate anyway. So our troops will just continue with their operations," he said.

Meanwhile, Air Force Chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino said yesterday that he would meet commanders of major Air Force units to discuss the new plot to topple the government.

"There isn't a report yet that something like that is happen-

ing in the Air Force. But I won't take a chance. I'll talk to my commanders," Tolentino said in a phone interview.

He said he would call the heads of major Air Force units and direct them to reach out to their men and advise them against taking part in any subversive move.

"I will ask them to advise the men on the ground that if there is anyone approaching them, or if they really want to do something [against the government], then they should get out. They should not use our capability for their own ends," he said. Nikko Dizon and Tarra Quismundo



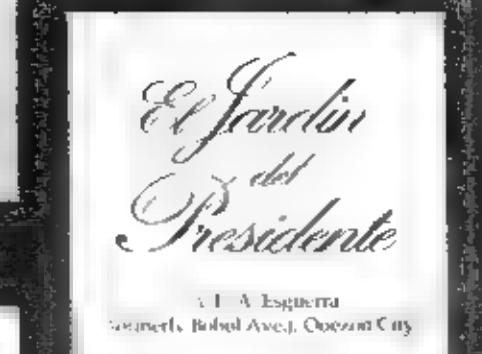
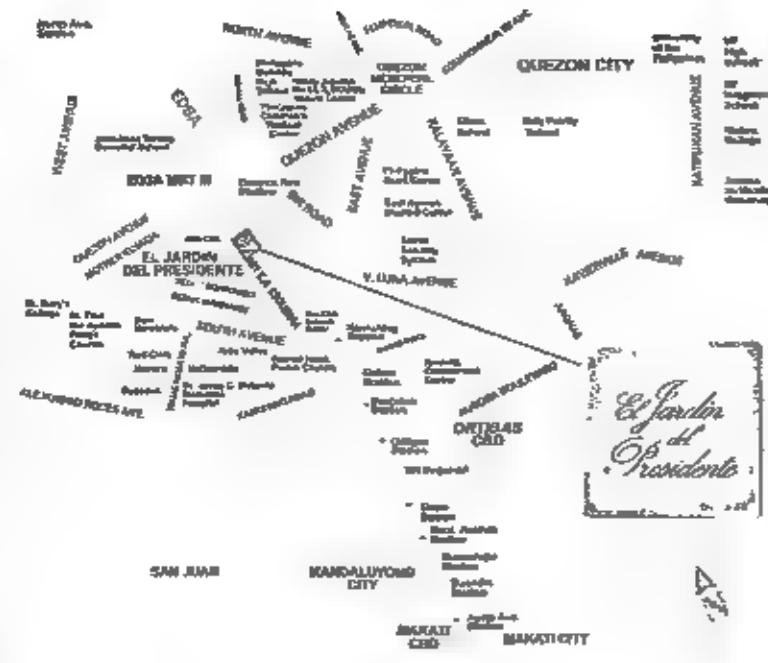
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Judge wants Magdalo trial over this year, shuns delays

By DJ Yap

THE MAKATI judge hearing the coup d'état case of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and 30 junior officers indicated yesterday that he wanted the trial to finish by the end of the year.

Judge Oscar Pimentel of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 said he would not accept any further postponement to the four year-old case, and set weekly dates for the presentation of defense evidence beginning October.

"The accused have been detained since 2003. They naturally are entitled to an expeditious resolution of the case," he said in open court.

Pimentel, with the agreement of defense lawyers, has scheduled weekly dates for the defense to present evidence from Oct. 10 to Nov. 22.

"The court will require from the counsels for the accused an assurance that they will not seek any postponement," he said in an order issued at the end of hearing.

The prosecution wrapped up the presentation of its evidence in January, following which all but one of the 31 accused filed a motion to dismiss the case by way of demurrer to evidence. But Pimentel denied the motion in July.

Reynaldo Robles, the lawyer of Trillanes and 13 other accused, welcomed the move, saying that barring major developments, the court will be able to make a decision by December or January.

The lawyer is scheduled to make his case on Nov. 8 and 15. Asked if Trillanes would take the stand, he said he had yet to discuss it with his client.

He said it was still not certain if the case would be resolved by the end of the year.

The junior officers, who called themselves the Magdalo group, are charged with participation in the failed July 2003 coup, also known as the Oakwood mutiny, during which they occupied the Oakwood hotel for more than 24 hours.

Pimentel gave the order even as one of the defense lawyers made a final pitch for the reversal of Pimentel's order junking their demurrer to evidence.

Robles said he would file a motion for reconsideration on Monday for the case to be dismissed.

Pimentel said the issue would be considered submitted for resolution on Sept. 25 whether the motion is filed or not.

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PNP names new Metro police chiefs

SPD chief is Manila's top cop

By Alcuin Papa, Kristine L. Alave
and Julie M. Aurelio

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE will implement today a reshuffle of its police commanders in the metropolis.

Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, PNP deputy chief for administration, announced yesterday that Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, the acting chief of the Manila Police District, would take over as head of the PNP Academy.

Abarzosa, who is an alumnus of the PNPA, will replace Senior Supt. Nestor Fajura, the academy's acting director.

Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, the head of the Southern Police District, will succeed Abarzosa as MPD chief, considered an important post because the police district is in charge of securing Malacañang.

Lim's choice

"Finally, the (Manila) mayor has made a choice and that is General Rosales," Razon said, referring to Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Lim earlier expressed his desire for Abarzosa to stay on as MPD chief because he was "doing a good job."

Replacing Rosales at the SPD is Eastern Police District director, Chief Supt. Laizco Ticman.

The SPD has jurisdiction over the cities of Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, Taguig, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa.

Moving over to the EPD is Chief Supt. Leon Nilo dela Cruz, who is assigned to the National Capital Region Police Office. The EPD covers the areas of Pasig, Mandaluyong, San Juan and Marikina.

A mass turnover of the affected police commands will be held at 9 a.m. today at the headquarters of the NCRPO in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City.

"This reshuffle has been long overdue. There are quite a number of police officials who are retiring from the service," said

Supt. Rhodel Sermonia, NCRPO spokesman. "It's just a changing of the guard," he added.

Rosales, meanwhile, said that his reassignment to the MPD is a lateral move and not a promotion at all.

"I was being groomed for the MPD as early as 2004. It's a lateral move," he said over the phone.

Rosales promised to lower the incidence of street crimes in Manila once he assumes his new post.

"The bottom line is, like what I did at the SPD, to reduce the level of fear among residents. I ask all residents to help me in maintaining peace and order," he added.

Rosales took over as SPD chief in December 2006.

A blessing

Asked how he felt about being transferred from one district to another in less than a year, he said, "I believe that everything that comes my way is a blessing and not mere coincidences."

He added that he would not immediately implement a revamp at the MPD.

"A round peg belongs to a round hole, a square peg to a square hole. I will let them prove first that their abilities are matched with their tasks," Rosales said.

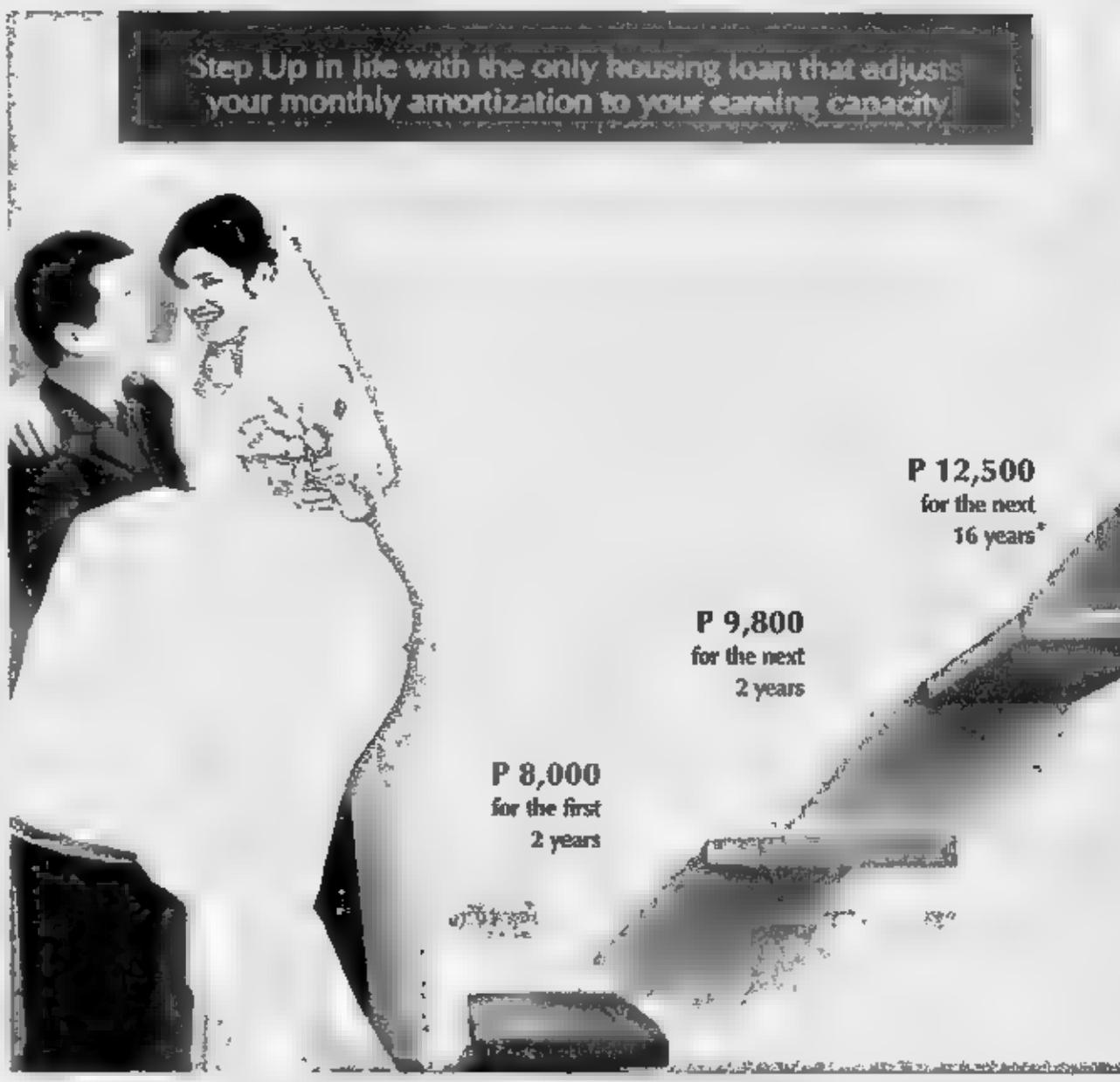
Ticman, meanwhile, said he received the memorandum for his transfer yesterday morning from the NCRPO.

He added that the move did not come as a surprise, considering that the PNP leadership had talked about implementing a revamp among the directors of the police districts in Metro Manila.

Ticman, who served as EPD chief for about a year, said he looks forward to the challenges at the SPD as it is a bigger district.

Two police districts were unaffected by the revamp—the Quezon City Police District which is headed by Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gadtula and the Northern Police District whose director is Chief Supt. Pedro Tingo.

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UP president orders fraternities: Justify your existence

By Jeannette I. Andrade

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPINES president Emerlinda Roman has ordered fraternities in all of the university's campuses nationwide to "justify their continued existence within the UP system."

Roman's directive was contained in Administrative Order PERR-07-80 which she issued on Wednesday following a meeting with other UP Diliman officials.

Among the matters discussed during the meeting was the recent death of Cris Anthony Mendez, a senior public admin-

istration student, who was believed to be a victim of hazing.

Mendez was declared dead on arrival on Aug. 27 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where the attending doctor took notice of the numerous bruises on his arms and legs. A witness recently surfaced at the National Bureau of Investigation to confirm reports that Mendez had joined the Sigma Rho fraternity and was set to attend the initiation rites a few days before his death.

Roman's order, which was addressed to all chancellors of UP campuses nationwide, directed them "to serve notice on all fra-

ternities within your campuses and to demand from them, within 15 days from their receipt of your request but no later than Oct. 19, a justification of their continued existence within the University of the Philippines system."

As administrators, the chancellors were responsible for ensuring that students "remain safe from those who exhibit the propensity for violence," she said.

The ability to torture, whether physical or psychological, has never been a trait of the *iskolar ng bayan* (scholar of the nation). The lack of respect for

human lives has no place within the environment of academic excellence. Fundamental rights to organize and express oneself are not absolute. Conspiracies that lead to senseless deaths and violence are never legal," her order read.

As soon as all fraternities comply with her order, a forum will be held "to seriously consider a fundamental shift in policy regarding fraternities and similar organizations," it added.

The order, however, did not say what sanctions would be imposed on groups that fail to justify their existence.

An official of the university who requested anonymity told the Inquirer that they have not yet received any guidance for determining whether or not the justifications given by a fraternity are valid.

But the official stressed that "the university has the right to discipline its students. This is part of that."

"In spite of our present rules and the promises that have been made by fraternities through their covenants and manifestos, violence still occurs within and among them through hazing, rumbles and other activities that are not

sanctioned by our rules and by the law," Roman said.

She criticized the fraternities believed to be involved in the death of Mendez and another student from UP Los Baños, Marlon Villanueva, calling their response to the incidents as proof of "their callousness and inhumanity."

"Brutality and callousness are the natural results of a culture of misguided secrecy, loyalty and violence," Roman added.

She called on the officers of the two fraternities to cooperate with UP officials and the families of the victims to get at the truth.

3 students looking for laughs arrested for theft in Pasig City

By Kristine L. Alava

POLICE YESTERDAY ARRESTED THREE students from private schools on Taft Ave., Pasay City after a call center agent in Ortigas Business District, Pasig City accused them of robbing her.

The three suspects, who are in the custody of the Pasig City police, were identified as Rolando Andrade, 25, Miguel Eduardo Garcia, 19; and Enjo Urdaneta, 20.

Pasig City police chief, Senior Supt. Frank Uyami, said it appeared that the suspects were from well-off families and that they staged the robbery just to amuse themselves.

Garcia is enrolled in the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde while Andrade and Urdaneta are students of the Philippine

Women's University.

Uyami identified the complainant as Jaziel Araque, 22, a call center employee and a resident of Barangay San Jose, Pasig City.

Araque said she was walking on Meralco Ave. at around 2:30 a.m. yesterday when a white Toyota RAV-4 with plate number ZBB 258 stopped near her. A man got out, placed an arm on her shoulder while another one grabbed her bag.

Uyami said policemen on patrol saw the incident and chased the suspects. They later recovered Araque's bag, cell phone and other valuables from the three men.

Urdaneta and Garcia told the police that the robbery was an impulsive act on their part.



LOOKING FOR A HOME

A store owner puts a Dalmatian puppy inside a cage at the Aranque Market in Manila. Several stalls in the market, which reopened recently after undergoing rehabilitation, sell pets ranging from dogs and cats to birds. **REM ZAMORA**

Makati police eye inside job angle in botched rob try

By DJ Yap

THE POLICE OF MAKATI ARE LOOKING into the possibility that Wednesday's botched robbery on a busy intersection which left two men dead and two others wounded was an inside job.

Makati police chief, Supt. Gilbert Cruz, said it was likely that the six suspects, who remained at large, had known in advance that their targets were carrying more than P6 million

after a visit to the bank.

But he refused to identify any particular group or individual that might have been responsible for the attack and added that other angles were being pursued.

Cruz said they would interview at least three persons who witnessed the incident at the intersection of Gil Puyat and Makati Avenue at past noon Wednesday.

"We will show them pictures of possible suspects," the police official told

the Inquirer over the phone.

On Wednesday, a driver and a bystander were gunned down while two others were wounded after the suspects opened fire at their target, a blue-gray Isuzu D-Max, the police said.

Aboard the vehicle were driver Jon Jon Flores, 29, and two other employees who work for businessman Benjamin Bitanga, who was not in the car at the time of the incident.

The employees had just withdrawn

P6.626 million from the International Exchange Bank and were on their way back to their office when the attack occurred, the police said.

Flores and a bystander identified as Erlindo Barroga were killed while the two other employees who were rushed to the M-Tech Medical Hospital are now in stable condition, Cruz said.

The cash was left intact in the Isuzu and returned in full to Bitanga on the same day.

METROBRIEFS

Man's body found in bay

THE BODY of a man believed to be a Korean national was found floating in Manila Bay yesterday morning. Case investigator Manuel Sarmiento of the Manila Police District homicide division said a security guard of Seafood Wharf on Roxas Boulevard discovered the corpse at 6 a.m. Sarmiento said that vendors spotted the unidentified man, who was wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a green pair of pants and black socks, strolling in Rizal Park earlier. He added that they will coordinate with the Korean Embassy to determine the identity of the victim whose body was taken to Popular Funeral Homes for an autopsy.

Allison W. Lopez

I killed, 4 hurt in trike mishap

A MAN was killed while four others were injured when a tricycle driver lost control of his vehicle after midnight in Valenzuela City yesterday. Insp. Alfonso de Guzman, of the city's Traffic Enforcement Unit, said the driver, Daniel Adayag of Canumay, Valenzuela City, who was one of those hurt, was charged with homicide and serious physical injuries at the city's prosecutor's office. De Guzman identified the fatality, who was one of Adayag's passengers, as Godofredo Villa, of Punturin Valenzuela City. Those injured on the other hand, were Godofredo Villa, Marcelo Fajardo and Faustino Calnoy, all residents of the city. Investigation showed that Adayag was driving fast when he tried to overtake another tricycle and lost control of his vehicle.

Nancy Carvalho

'Prayer for World Peace' in QC

AN INTER-FAITH "Prayer for World Peace" will be held by the Centre for Peace at the Rotary peace monument inside the Quezon Memorial Circle today. The activity is part of the International Day of Peace celebrations mandated by the United Nations, according to Don Flordeza, founder of the center. This year's event will be spearheaded by All-Filipino Interfaith Congress national chair Nilo Tayag, who like Flordeza, is a former rebel-turned-peace advocate. Various civic and religious organizations are participating in the event, with the support of Quezon City officials and national leaders. The "Kalinaw Panaghoy sa Mindanao" a series of activities advocating peace, will be held simultaneously in Digos City today.

Woman, 3 men wanted for killing criminology student

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR A WOMAN and three men believed to be her relatives for the death of a criminology student in Quezon City last month.

The victim, Raul Bautista, 18, a resident of Cainta, Rizal, was shot by the men inside the car of the woman, said to be his girlfriend, on Jupiter St.,

Barangay Bahay Toro on Aug. 26.

Bystanders rushed him to the Quezon City General Hospital where he died three days later. Police said the victim was able to tell his cousin, Ronnie Cernechez, what happened to him.

According to Cernechez, Bautista received a text message from his girlfriend, April Ann Garingco of San

Miguel, Pasig, asking him to meet her at a mall in Cainta, Rizal, on Aug. 26.

Cernechez told the police that Garingco picked up the victim at the mall on her van. On their way to Quezon City, Garingco stopped the vehicle and got out of the car, saying she was going to fix the side mirror.

According to Cernechez, three men then entered the vehicle. One of them

took over the wheel while Garingco sat at the back. They later shot Bautista in the back of the head and dumped him at Barangay Bahay Toro.

Police said they were investigating reports that the victim had gotten his girlfriend pregnant and that this had angered her relatives who have yet to be identified.

Palma witnesses summoned

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION has summoned the witnesses in the case of Geraldine Palma, the 7-year-old girl who was kidnapped, raped and killed by her captors.

The NBI Special Task Force, which is in charge of the case, said it has issued subpoenas to Rosdami Mesias, Domingo Agnote and Norberta Legado who earlier identified Henry Tesado as the alleged mastermind.

The bureau, meanwhile, said that they have already obtained

clearance from the Paranaque City health office to exhume the victim's body and subject it to a DNA test.

The girl's parents earlier asked the NBI to conduct its own investigation of the case after the Manila Police District said that the body which was found inside a suitcase last month in North Harbor, Tondo was not that of Palma.

The police said a check with St. Paul College, where Palma was enrolled, showed that she was only 3 feet, 10 inches tall. The body inside the suitcase measured 4 feet, 2 inches.

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The Land Bank Realty Development Corporation (LBRC) through its Committee on Bids and Award (CBA) invites all contractors registered with CIAP registration classified as "ISRAL/MEIDIUM" by Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) for Building and Industrial Plant to submit their bid for the following project:

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LB - TANAHAN BRANCH CONSTRUCTION- SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF STEEL DECKING 13 CD, LBP FUND P 363,050.00

The Schedule of CBA activities are as follows:

Activities Date/Time Venue

1. Receipt from prospective bidders of JOI including AIA, CEN, Engg. Bldg. and other forms 09/21/26, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30 PM LBRDC

2. Submission of Eligibility Requirements OCT 03, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30 PM LBRDC

3. Pre-Bid Conference OCT 12, 2007 @ 2:00 PM LBRDC

4. Submission of Bid Costs/Deadline of Submission of Bids OCT 24, 2007 @ 9:30-12:00 MN LBRDC

5. Opening of Bids (Bidding) OCT 24, 2007 @ 2:00 PM LBRDC

Eligibility Forms at the Land Bank Realty Development Corporation (LBRC) 30/F Land Bank Plaza 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor Dr. J. Quirino St. Manila upon their submission of LOH presentation of their contractor's license, and upon payment of non-refundable/transferable processing amount of P500.00. Bid Documents are available for issuance to eligible bidders as scheduled. Bids upon presentation of Notice of Eligibility to the CBA and payment of P1,000.00.

LBRC reserves the right to change the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission and opening of bids.

LBRC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, parts thereof, to waive any defect or formalities therein or accept any bid or award any part thereof to any contractor whose bid is evaluated to be most advantageous. In LBRC, it is not obliged to compensate the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, and it is not obliged that an award of contract will be made.

For further details, please call Mr. Alan Rosales/Ana L. Mandala/Genoveza at 405-7100; 405-7403/405-7138.

(Sgd.) ENGR. GERONIMO R. BERNARD Committee on Bids and Awards

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18 September 2007

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Deadline to submit proposals: October 17, 2007, 5:00 PM at the Supply and Property Management Office, University Hotel.

For inquiries on the Terms of Reference, please contact Ms. Rosalie Ayag at telephone number 435-1316.

(Sgd.) MARTIN V. GREGORIO

Resident Manager

(PDI - September 21, 2007)

Pakistan sets presidential election for Oct. 6

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN'S ELECTION commission Thursday named Oct. 6 as the date for a presidential poll in which embattled military ruler Pervez Musharraf will seek reelection in uniform.

Musharraf said through his lawyer earlier this week that if he wins another five-year term as president he will stand down as chief of the Army, his main backer since he seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999.

But the opposition vowed legal action to block the vote, saying that Musharraf, a key US ally in the "war on terror" whose popularity has slumped in recent months, should quit the military beforehand.

"Nominations must be filed by Sept. 27, the scrutiny of the nominations will be on Sept. 29 and Oct. 6 will be the election,"

the commission's secretary Kanwar Dilhadi said.

The election is not by universal suffrage but by a ballot of Pakistan's parliament and its four provincial assemblies, which have all been in place since 2002.

Opposition parties have called for Musharraf to seek reelection from a new parliament instead of the outgoing assemblies and have also threatened to resign from the assembly if he does not quit his military role before a vote.

The government said it had enough seats to reelect Musharraf anyway.

"The election dates have been announced. God willing we will reelect him, we have got the majority, we have got the strength," Information Minister Muhammad Ali Durrani said.

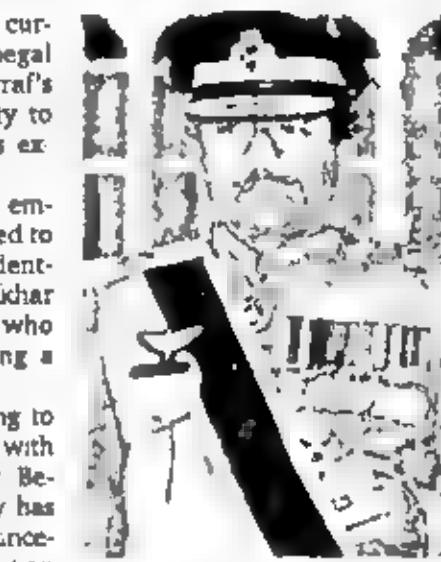
"It's a step towards democracy."

The Supreme Court is currently hearing a series of legal challenges against Musharraf's dual role and his eligibility to stand in the election. It is expected to rule on Friday.

The president has been embroiled in crisis since he tried to sack the country's independent-minded chief justice, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, who was reinstated after leading a mass protest campaign.

Musharraf has been trying to forge a power-sharing deal with self-exiled former premier Benazir Bhutto, but her party has strongly rejected his announcement that he will seek reelection without first leaving the Army.

Her Pakistan People's Party was not immediately available for comment on the election schedule.



MUSHARAF, in undated photo, will give up his Army post soon after reelection as president according to a government lawyer on Sept. 18.

AFP

Bin Laden to declare war on Pakistani president

CAIRO, EGYPT—OSAMA BIN LADEN will release a new message soon declaring war on Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, al-Qaida announced Thursday.

The announcement of the upcoming message came as al-Qaida released a new video in which Bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, boasted that the United States was being defeated in Afghanistan, Iraq and other fronts. Speakers in the video promised more fighting in Afghanistan, North Africa and Sudan's Darfur region.

The messages are part of a stepped-up propaganda campaign by al-Qaida around the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Earlier this month, Bin Laden released two messages—including his first new appearance in a video in nearly three years.

A banner posted on an Islamic militant website on Thursday advertised that another message would be released, though it did not say whether Bin Laden would appear in video or speak in an audiotape.

"Soon, God willing: 'Come to Jihad (holy war)', from sheik Osama bin Laden, God protect him" the banner read.

"Urgent, al-Qaida declares war on the tyrant Pervez Musharraf and his apostate army, in the words of Osama bin Laden," it read.

Such advertisements usually precede the release of the video by one to three days, according to IntelCenter, a US counterterrorism group that monitors militant messages.

The 80-minute video released Thursday on the same website was in the style of a documentary, interspersing the speech by Al-Zawahri with footage from the 9/11 attacks, interviews with experts and officials taken from Western and Arab television stations and old footage and audiotapes of Bin Laden.

Al-Zawahri began by condemning the Pakistani military's July assault on Islamic militants who took over the Red Mosque in Islamabad, and he paid tribute to one of the militants' leaders, Abdul Rashid Ghazi, who was killed in the fighting.

The siege "revealed the extent of the despicableness, lowliness and treason of Musharraf and his forces, who don't deserve the honor of defending Pakistan," Al-Zawahri said. AP

US bill to give legal status to illegal immigrant students

WASHINGTON—A BILL TO OFFER legal status to illegal immigrant students who have graduated from high school was revived this week in the Senate, the first effort to advance a piece of broad immigration legislation that failed in June.

Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., who is an author of the student measure, said Wednesday that he would try this week to offer it as an amendment to the defense authorization bill under debate

in the Senate. The measure would provide a path to permanent legal status for illegal immigrant students who came to the United States before they were 16 years old, graduated from high school in good standing and agreed to serve in the military or attend college for at least two years.

Both supporters and opponents of the measure said it would serve as a test on whether legislation giving legal status to illegal immigrants can

pass Congress this year, in light of the strong opposition from conservative voters who defeated the larger bill. Opponents rejected that bill as an amnesty that would reward immigrants who broke the law.

Durbin, speaking Tuesday on the Senate floor, described his measure as "narrowly tailored" and said it would help resolve "a very serious recruitment crisis" for the military.

Supporters, who called the measure the Dream Act, said it passed.

NYT

could pass the Senate because it is intended to benefit young people who grow up in the United States and are illegal immigrants as a result of decisions by their parents.

But Steve Elliott, president of Grassfire.org, a conservative website whose members mobilized against the June bill, sent out an alert last week calling the student measure a "blatant deception" on the part of the Senate to get a massive amnesty passed.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel declares Gaza 'enemy entity'; Hamas calls move war

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL DECLARED THE GAZA Strip an "enemy entity" on Wednesday and said it would reduce its fuel and power supplies to the Hamas-run territory in response to rocket attacks by Palestinian militants.

Hamas described the move, during a visit to the region by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to prepare for a US-led Middle East peace conference, as a declaration of war.

"They aim to starve our people and force them to bow and accept humiliating formulas that could emerge from the so-called November peace conference," Hamas spokesperson Fawzi Barhoum said.

Hamas, which seized control of Gaza in June after fighting the forces of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, has been

preparing defenses against a possible Israeli offensive.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office said his security Cabinet approved the "enemy entity" classification and there would be "limitations on imports to the Gaza Strip and a reduction in the supply of fuel and electricity."

It gave no starting date for the sanctions and said they would be implemented after Israeli authorities had examined the legal and humanitarian ramifications.

"We are going to ask the Americans to pressure Israel to refrain

from taking such action," Palestinian Information Minister Riyad al-Malki said in the West Bank city of Ramallah, where Rice will meet Abbas on Thursday.

Asked about the Israeli move, Rice told a news conference that Washington considered Hamas to be a "hostile entity" but pledged the United States "would not abandon the innocent Palestinians," a reference to humanitarian aid.

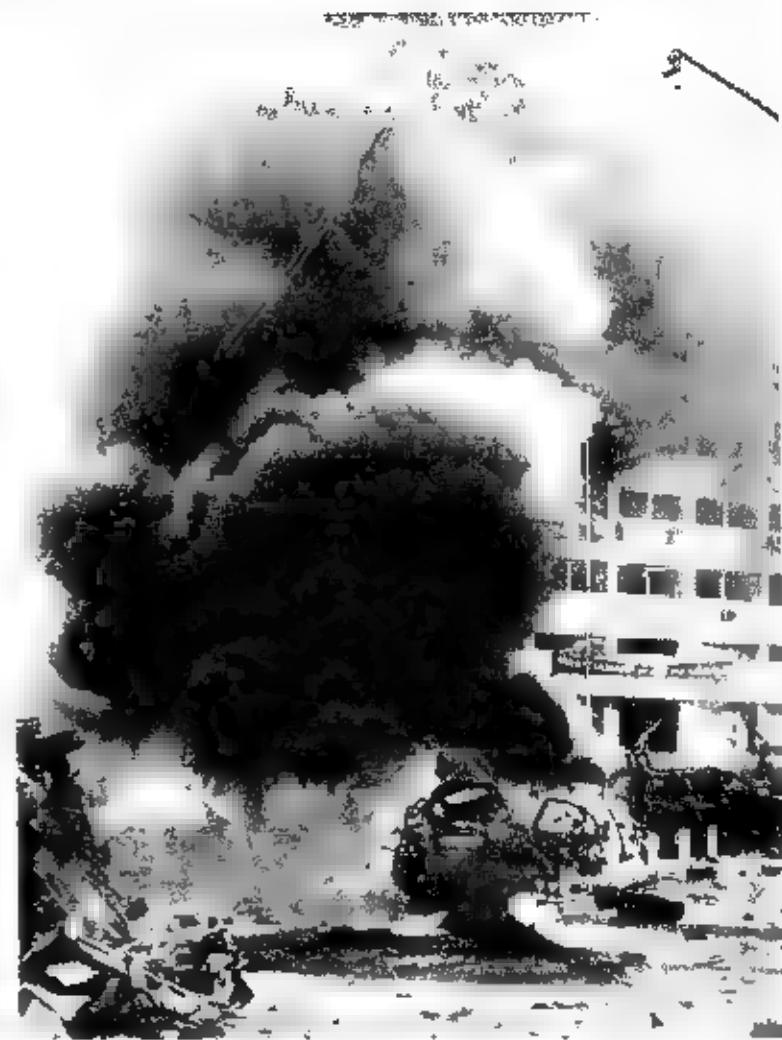
Faced with frequent cross-border rocket salvos which the Israeli military has been unable to stop, Olmert has been under pressure from right-wing members of his coalition to order a broad ground operation in the Gaza Strip to confront militants.

With US encouragement, Israel has said it is keen to bolster Abbas in the West Bank since he

dismissed a Hamas-led government three months ago. Defense Minister Ehud Barak said after meeting Rice that Israel would start to remove some West Bank security barriers to answer Palestinian concerns.

The 24 barriers to be removed may fall short of hopes among Abbas' supporters for a major easing of curbs on movement posed by more than 500 checkpoints and other obstacles in the territory.

By formally defining Gaza as enemy territory, Israel could argue that it cannot be bound by international law to supply utilities to its 1.5 million people. Israel withdrew troops and settlers in 2005 but Palestinians say Gaza is still occupied because Israel controls its air, land and sea borders. Reuters



BLACK smoke billows from burning cars at the site of a car bomb in a Christian suburb of Beirut that killed anti-Syrian Lebanese deputy Antoine Ghanem and seven others on Sept. 19. AFP

Beirut car bomb kills anti-Syrian MP, 7 others

BEIRUT—A CAR BOMB KILLED AN ANTI-SYRIAN LAWMAKER AND AT LEAST SEVEN OTHER PEOPLE IN BEIRUT ON WEDNESDAY, LESS THAN A WEEK BEFORE LEBANON'S PARLIAMENT WAS DUE TO ELECT A NEW PRESIDENT.

Antoine Ghanem of the Christian Phalange party was killed in a Christian district of the capital in an attack his allies blamed on Damascus. Syria condemned the killing.

Ghanem was the seventh anti-Syrian figure to be killed in Lebanon since the Feb. 14, 2005, assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

"Every two or three months we are being targeted," Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamadeh, a leading member of the governing coalition who survived an assassination attempt in 2004, said.

At least 30 other people were wounded by the bomb in the commercial and residential area of Sini el-Fil.

US President George W. Bush condemned the "cowardly attack" and said Washington stood in solidarity with the Lebanese people against what he called an attempt by Syria and Iran to destabilize Lebanon. Reuters

WORLD BRIEFS

Burma monks defy junta anew, hold march

Rangoon—More than 400 Buddhist monks on Thursday marched in the rain in Rangoon under tight security on the fourth straight day of protests by Burma's clergy against the country's military rulers. Chanting Buddhist prayers, the cinnamon-robed monks arrived at Shwedagon Pagoda, the most important landmark in Burma (also known as Myanmar), after marching past the headquarters of the opposition National League for Democracy, eye-witnesses said. Most of the marchers were in their early 20s and some walked barefoot in the latest in a series of nationwide protests which began on Aug. 19, when a massive hike in fuel prices led to a spike in transport costs. AFP

Netanyahu says Israel behind recent air strike in Syria

JERUSALEM—Israel's media and politicians lambasted former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday for becoming the first official to say Israel was behind the recent air strike deep inside Syria. In an interview with Channel 1 news on Wednesday, the hawkish opposition leader said he had given Prime Minister Ehud Olmert his backing for carrying out the strike, which Syria said happened on Sept. 6. The Israel government has categorically refused to comment in any way on the reported strike, despite a sea of international media speculation on its target. Netanyahu's apparent slip of the tongue was splashed across the country's dailies and topped the news on radio and television. AFP

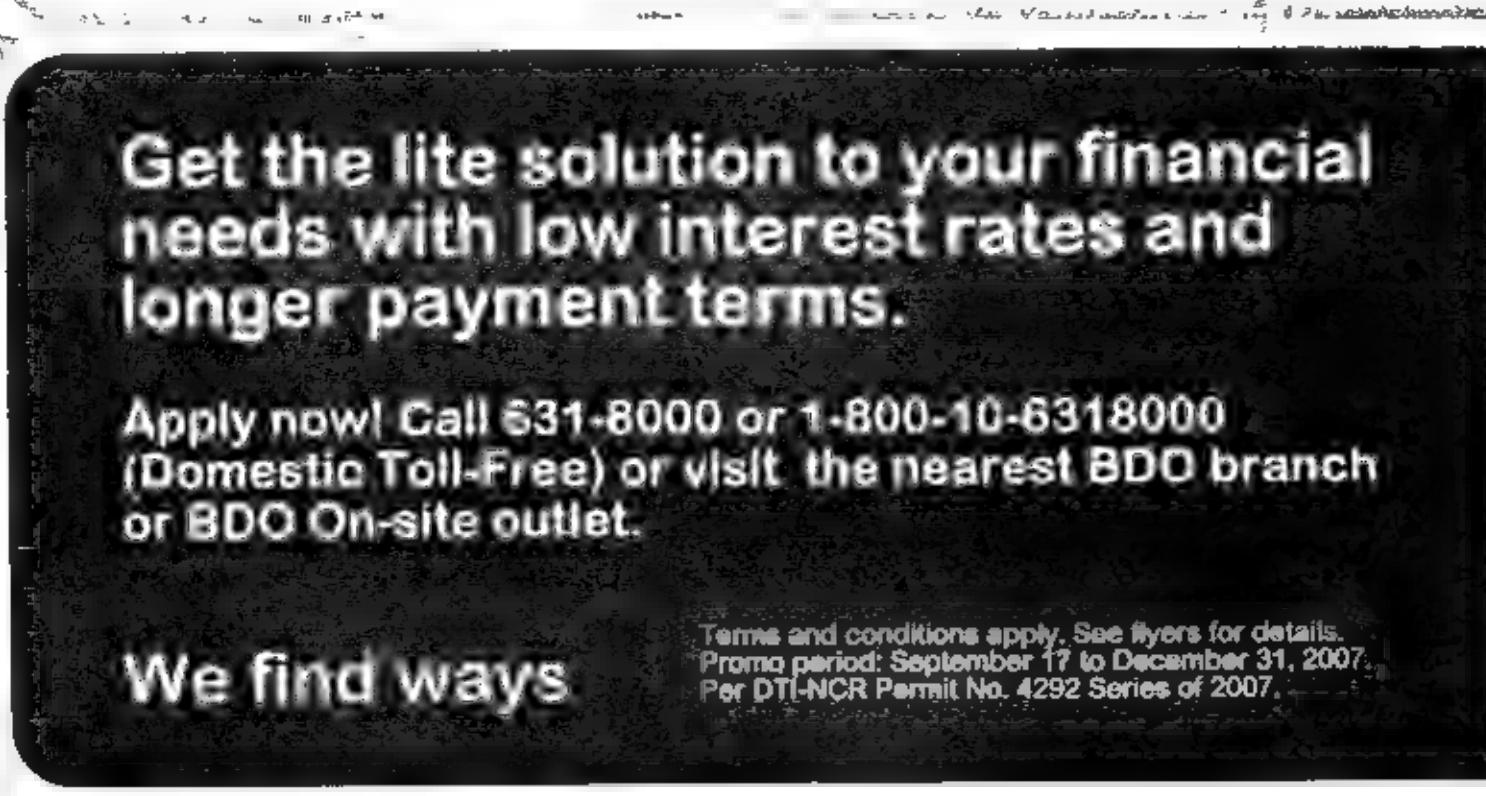
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

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dismissed a Hamas-led government three months ago. Defense Minister Ehud Barak said after meeting Rice that Israel would start to remove some West Bank security barriers to answer Palestinian concerns.

The 24 barriers to be removed may fall short of hopes among Abbas' supporters for a major easing of curbs on movement posed by more than 500 checkpoints and other obstacles in the territory.

By formally defining Gaza as enemy territory, Israel could argue that it cannot be bound by international law to supply utilities to its 1.5 million people. Israel withdrew troops and settlers in 2005 but Palestinians say Gaza is still occupied because Israel controls its air, land and sea borders. Reuters



BLACK smoke billows from burning cars at the site of a car bomb in a Christian suburb of Beirut that killed anti-Syrian Lebanese deputy Antoine Ghanem and seven others on Sept. 19. AFP

Beirut car bomb kills anti-Syrian MP, 7 others

BEIRUT—A CAR BOMB KILLED AN ANTI-SYRIAN lawmaker and at least seven other people in Beirut on Wednesday, less than a week before Lebanon's parliament was due to elect a new president.

Antoine Ghanem of the Christian Phalange party was killed in a Christian district of the capital in an attack his allies blamed on Damascus. Syria condemned the killing.

Ghanem was the seventh anti-Syrian figure to be killed in Lebanon since the Feb. 14, 2005, assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

"Every two or three months we are being targeted," Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamadeh, a leading member of the governing coalition who survived an assassination attempt in 2004, said.

At least 30 other people were wounded by the bomb in the commercial and residential area of Sin el-Fil.

US President George W. Bush condemned the "cowardly attack" and said Washington stood in solidarity with the Lebanese people against what he called an attempt by Syria and Iran to destabilize Lebanon. Reuters

WORLD BRIEFS

Burma monks defy junta anew, hold march

Rangoon—More than 400 Buddhist monks on Thursday marched in the rain in Rangoon under tight security on the fourth straight day of protests by Burma's clergy against the country's military rulers. Chanting Buddhist prayers, the cinnamon-robed monks arrived at Shwedagon Pagoda, the most important landmark in Burma (also known as Myanmar), after marching past the headquarters of the opposition National League for Democracy, eyewitnesses said. Most of the marchers were in their early 20s and some walked barefoot in the latest in a series of nationwide protests which began on Aug. 19, when a massive hike in fuel prices led to a spike in transport costs. AFP

Netanyahu says Israel behind recent air strike in Syria

JERUSALEM—Israel's media and politicians lambasted former premier Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday for becoming the first official to say Israel was behind the recent air strike deep inside Syria. In an interview with Channel 1 news on Wednesday, the hawkish opposition leader said he had given Prime Minister Ehud Olmert his backing for carrying out the strike, which Syria said happened on Sept. 6. The Israeli government has categorically refused to comment in any way on the reported strike, despite a sea of international media speculation on its target. Netanyahu's apparent slip of the tongue was splashed across the country's dailies and topped the news on radio and television.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Coach
Joe Lipa
marooned
/A26

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SPORTS

Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor Teddy Vic S. Melendres

Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa



■ Yanks
close in
on No. 1
/A27

Laylo zaps GM; Torre crumbles

STANDINGS after two rounds:

2 points—D. Laylo (RP), W. Hao (China), Y. Shaoteng (China), Z. Jun (China), A. Kunte (India); 1.5—M. Paragua (RP), Z. Pengxiang (China), A. Bagheri (Iran), D.T. Ha (Vietnam), M. Mahjoubzad (Iran), P. Negi (India), Z. Jianchao (China), T. Batchuluun (Mongolia), Z. Jianchao (China).

By Roy Luarca

MANDAUE CITY—THE CHINESE STARTED TO FLAUNT THEIR might last night even as Filipino International Master Darwin Laylo continued to blaze the comeback trail in the 6th Asian Individual Chess Championship at the Cebu International Convention Center here.

Grandmasters Wang Hao, Yu Shaoteng and Shao Jun downed their respective rivals to share the lead with Laylo and Indian GM Abhijit Kunte, who also notched their second straight wins in the 11-round tournament serving as a qualifier for the World Chess Cup.

The 27-year-old Laylo, returning after serving a six-month ban slapped on him by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines for alleged involvement in game-fixing, beat Indian GM Chanda Sandipan in 46 moves of a Slav to spearhead the Philippines' bid for the 10 World Cup slots at stake in the region's strongest event.

Laylo's smashing triumph kept local hopes alive after GMs Eugene Torre went down in shock defeat to No. 35 seed IM

56 moves of the Caro Kann, while IM Oliver Dimakinding overwhelmed FM Duc Trong Dinh of Vietnam to bounce back into contention.

"Napit ko siya (I pinned him down)," said Laylo, a Turin Olympian who is seeking his third and final GM result.

An Armyman and coach of the UST girls' team, Laylo bared that he has beaten even stronger players than Sandipan, citing Russian Super GM Alexander Motylev, whom he beat in 2005, and is eager to compensate for the time and opportunities he lost.

In the end, Laylo, who was co-champion in the 2006 Malaysian

Open and shared third in the Bad Wie Zee tournament in Germany in the same year, had two bishops against Sandipan's rook and was on the verge of promoting his pawn in the c-file.

Wao, the third seed with an Elo of 2626, beat Indian GM Das Neelopal while Yu bested local bet Steven Yap Kim.

Shao thwarted Vietnamese GM Tu Hoang Thong to keep pace with his compatriots, Laylo and Kunte, who mastered Iraqi FM N.A. Hussem.

Paragua tried vainly but eventually settled for a draw of another Slav to be at 1.5 points in the company of second seed GM

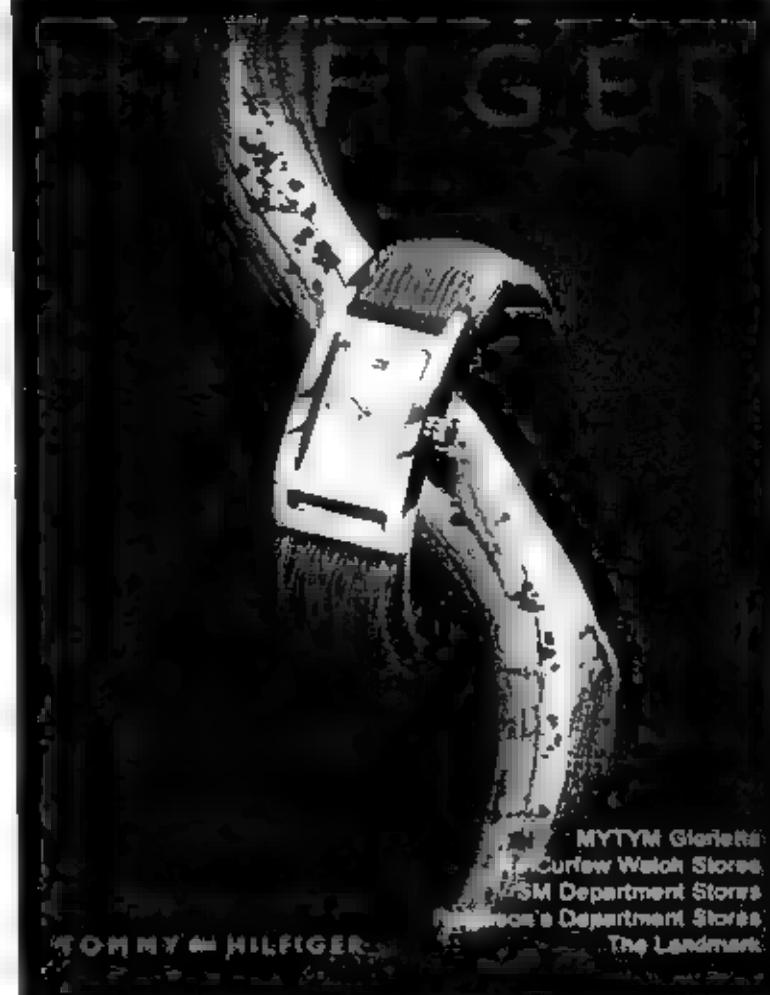
Zhang Pengxiang, who was held to a draw by Iranian GM Amr Bagheri.

Filipino GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio was still playing Indian GM Chakravarthy Deepan at press time.

Surprisingly, top seed Chinese GM Ni Hua continued to struggle,

setting for a draw with Filipino National Master Emmanuel Senador after 42 moves of a Sicilian. Ni, who boasts an Elo of 2681, bowed to Iranian IM Mortaza Mahjoubzad in the first round.

IM Ronald Bancod suffered his second straight defeat at the hands of GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly.



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SPORTS

Pinoy Cuppers battle Kuwaitis Friday Murakami back in the hunt

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UP's bench veteran gets swift exit

By Jasmine W. Payo

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PSC plans new boxing gymnasium

By Marc Anthony Reyes

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Velasco settled for the silver medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics after Villanueva first achieved the feat in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

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If the new budget is approved, Ramirez said there would also be improvements at other PSC-managed facilities at the RMSC, PhilSports in Pasig City, Baguio and the Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City.

Also to be taken care of is the Sports Hall of Fame and the Philippine Sports Institute.

RP cagebelles turn to Lhuillier

June Navarro

IN DANGER OF MISSING THE Southeast Asian Games due to the dearth of sponsors, the RP women's basketball team has been courting an aggressive backer in the sport to salvage its stint in the biennial meet.

Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Patrick Gregorio yesterday said RP team officials and Cebuana Lhuillier are close to forging an agreement that would allow the national lady dribblers to see action in the Thailand Games on Dec. 6-16.

Cebuana Lhuillier has reportedly disbanded its team in the Philippine Basketball League, opening a door of opportunity for the SBP to convince its

owner, Jean Henri Lhuillier, to shift its priority to the beleaguered cagelettes.

"We're in the thick of negotiations and hopefully things would be ironed out soon," said Gregorio.

Lhuillier, an ardent basketball supporter, is convinced that negotiations would turn out just fine.

"We want to help our women's team," said Lhuillier, who is also the president of the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines and manager of the tennis team.

"It's just a matter of ironing out some remaining kinks."

Excluded from the P50-million budget earmarked by the Philippine Sports Commission for the national team, the national lady dribblers were

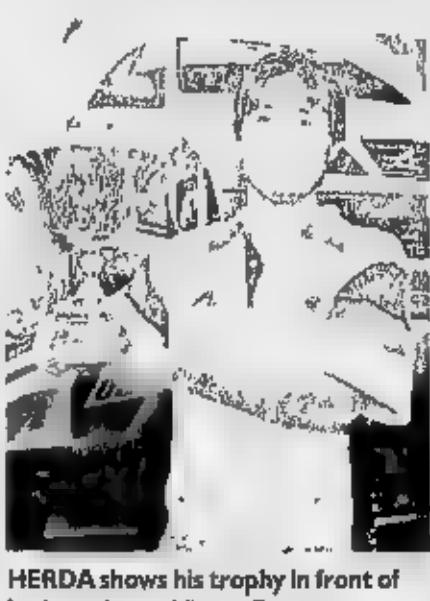
forced to look for a sponsor who will shoulder the team's P1.5 million expenses for the tournament.

Coached by Pritz Gaston, the women's squad is in search of big players and Fil-pino-foreign dribblers to complete the roster in time for the Seabed Championship on Oct. 14 in Phuket, Thailand.

Gaston has inserted Vicki Brick, a 5-foot-7 guard from the University of Maryland, into the lineup following the decision of University of Illinois-Chicago point guard Chrissy Dixon to play in Europe.

The men's team is supported by Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero, who has tapped veteran mentor Junel Bacul as head coach.

Juicy prizes for weekend players: A car for SM Bowling champion



HERDA shows his trophy in front of his brand-new Nissan Sentra.

SM CEBU BET IAN NOEL HERDA surprised the field made up of a mix of weekend and serious bowlers to win the 7th SM Bowling Cup National Championship recently and the brand-new 1.5 Nissan Sentra GX that went with the trophy.

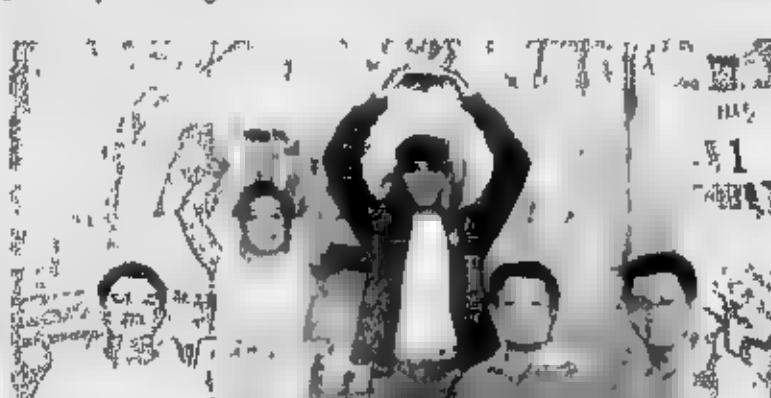
Herda, 33, and champion of the SM City Cebu eliminations, beat teammate Sammy Say Sy, who settled for the P80,000 runner-up cash prize. Ronaldo Mandag placed third and took home P50,000.

"Wow! A trophy and a brand-new car for weekend bowlers like us," exclaimed Herda, a manager at Inno

Data XML, after his victory at the SM Megamall Bowling Center, host of this year's National Championship.

Fourth placer Benson Co received P25,000 while Ceferno Pineca won P15,000 for placing fifth. Rodolfo Castro finished sixth and won P12,000, followed by Raoul Miranda (P10,500), Crizalde Tiu (P10,000), Neila Santos (P9,000), and Bienvenido Lozada (P8,500).

The SM Bowling Cup is one of the biggest and most prestigious bowling tournaments in the country, with P5 million worth of cash prizes at stake.



RIO de la Cruz and Joan Managat show their trophies after winning the men's and women's titles in the Legazpi City leg of the Milo Marathon. With them are city councilors Rolle Rosal (left) and Alfredo Garbin Jr. (right) and Milo Events AVP Pat Goc Ong.

San Pablo Milo race set Sunday

THE NATIONAL MILO MARATHON ELIMINATION series ends its sojourn to Southern Luzon Sunday in San Pablo City with a record field expected to answer the starting gun.

More than 4,000 runners braved the rain in last Sunday's Legazpi City leg won by Rio dela Cruz and Joan Managat.

With weather improving, this Sunday's race in San Pablo City will have the biggest participation in the 21K run, including runners coming from Metro Manila and as far as Tarlac.

The top three finishers in both the men's and women's divisions will advance to the 42K grand finale, slated Nov. 18 in Metro Manila, where P75,000 awaits the champions.

Organizing the run in San Pablo City is the

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2007

Malaysia's Danny Chia enjoyed one of his best starts this season to also score a 71 alongside local player Chen Jung-hsing, who is also the coach of Ming-tsuan.

Juvic Pgugins, last year's Asian Tour Rookie of the Year, was the next best Filipino with a 73 followed by former Vietnam Masters champion Angelo Que who shot a 74 and Gerald Rosales who carded a 76.

Tony Lascuña struggled to a 78 and needs a big round tomorrow to make it to the weekend play.

SPORTSWATCH

Jao, Aguilar, Buncio dispute Rider of the Year award

IT WILL BE A THREE-WAY BATTLE AMONG defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Kawasaki, Glen Aguilar and Yamaha's Marco Buncio for the Rider of the Year award in the culmination of the 2007 Shell Advance Superbikes Series tomorrow and Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The first two races are set on Saturday. The last two on Sunday will decide the winner of the much-coveted award.

The series, sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association, will also stage the Invitational Underbone competition featuring Buncio in the 125cc division and 13-year-old Fil-Japanese Dashi Watanabe in the 110cc class.

Spectators are looking forward to another big duel between Jao and Aguilar.

But this time, Buncio will get his equal share of the limelight as he currently leads the top rider race with 176 points despite his two runner-up finishes in the last leg.

Jao is 13 points behind Buncio with 163.

PCA netters nip MLTC

PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION bested Mandaluyong Lawn Tennis Club, 4-3, last Sunday in the 2007 Babolat Home and Away team tenis tournament at the MLTC courts.

PCA led MLTC in the lead with 3-2 records followed by Mandaluyong, Verde Verde and Acropolis tennis clubs which have identical 2-2 stands.

Newcomer Celebrity Sports Tennis Club fell to MLTC, 0-7, for its fourth straight loss.

Manila Water, BPI bets shine

MIGUEL CR SOL OF MANILA WATER Company and Grace Roces of Bank of the Philippines Islands emerged King and Queen of the Lanes, respectively, in the 2007 Ayala Group tenpin bowling tournament at Rockwell's PowerBowl Lanes in Makati.

Crisol, a member of the national training pool, beat BPI's Paolo Zosa in the men's final, 254-227, while top favorite Roces defeated Ayala Corp.'s May Datu in the ladies title match, 184-140.

Both Crisol and Roces earlier topped a four-game shoot-out among top qualifiers—to earn a bye and a twice-to-beat advantage in the stepladder competitions.

Pasay 4-stag derby kicks off

SOME 60 FIGHTS SPICE UP THE SECOND leg of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-Cock Derby series today at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as hacker.

Pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butch Oiano said among those ready to field their ace fowls are Jake Macasaet, Lito Candokia, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Arman Santos, Lito Roque, Gerry Ramos, Benjie Lim, Tony Lasata, Dodie Marmad Villarubio and Rodolfo Pineda.

Meanwhile, the Battle of the Big Boys 7-Stag Derby hosted by Gerry Ramos and the Firefly group resumes in November.

Pasig Square stagfest today

LEADING COCKERS AND BREEDERS from Rizal and Metro Manila clash today in the Winner-Take-All 3-Stag Derby at the Pasig Square Garden.

This one-day stagfest, supported by the Rizal Maccock Breeders Association (RZBA), features 70 or so fights.

According to promoters Danny Ty and Manny Berbano, participants are entitled to 80 percent of derby proceeds.

Screening of slags, eight to 10 months old, will be held from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The venue's "Fastest Win One-Cock Ultan" follows Tuesday with P300,000 up for grabs for an entry fee of P1,600.

Race 1—(Tr)	Fairy Queen	Empire	King	Dancing Poly	Earl Gray	Top Choice
Race 2—(Tr)	Rainbow (2)	Misa Melabon (4)	Look Who's Playing (1)	Pura Energy (1)		
Race 3—(Or/Tr)	Heptagon (2)	Misa Melabon (4)	Look Who's Playing (1)	Pura Energy (1)		
Race 4—(Porta/Or/Tr)	Lady Cugat (3)	Mr. Victory (8)	Acupunture (4)	Horror's Magic (9)	Miss Lylly (1)	Ultra Rose (4)
Race 5—(Or/Tr)	Stop Talking (1)	Heroic Immortal Star (4)	Serious Susie (6)	Regal Boon (3)		
Race 6—(Porta/Or/Tr)	Lady Cugat (3)	Mr. Victory (8)	Acupunture (4)	Horror's Magic (9)	Miss Lylly (1)	Ultra Rose (4)
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"We're in the thick of negotiations and hopefully things would be ironed out soon," said Gregorio.

Lhuillier, an ardent basketball supporter, is convinced that negotiations would turn out just fine.

"We want to help our women's team," said Lhuillier, who is also the president of the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines and manager of the tennis team.

"It's just a matter of ironing out some remaining kinks."

Excluded from the P50-million budget earmarked by the Philippine Sports Commission for the national team, the national lady dribblers were

forced to look for a sponsor who will shoulder the team's the P1.5 million expenses for the tournament.

Coached by Fritz Gaston, the women's squad is in search of big players and Filipino-foreign dribblers to complete the roster in time for the Seaba Championship on Oct. 14 in Phuket, Thailand.

Gaston has inserted Vicki Brick, a 5-foot-7 guard from the University of Maryland, into the lineup following the decision of University of Illinois-Chicago point guard Chrissy Dizon to play in Europe.

The men's team is supported by Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero, who has tapped veteran mentor Junie Bacul as head coach.



HERDA shows his trophy in front of his brand-new Nissan Sentra.

Juicy prizes for weekend players: A car for SM Bowling champion

SM CEBU BET IAN NOEL HERDA surprised the field made up of a mix of weekend and serious bowlers to win the 7th SM Bowling Cup National Championship recently and the brand-new 1.5 Nissan Sentra GX that went with the trophy.

Herda, 33, and champion of the SM City Cebu eliminations, beat teammate Saminy Say Sy, who settled for the P80,000 runner-up cash prize. Ronaldo Mandilag placed third and took home P50,000.

"Wow! A trophy and a brand-new car for weekend bowlers like us," exclaimed Herda, a manager at Inno

Data XML, after his victory at the SM Megamall Bowling Center, host of this year's National Championship.

Fourth placer Benson Co received P25,000 while Ceferina Pineda won P15,000 for placing fifth. Rodolfo Castro finished sixth and won P12,000, followed by Raoul Miranda (P10,500), Crizalde Tiu (P10,000), Nelia Santos (P9,000), and Bienvenido Lozada (P8,500).

The SM Bowling Cup is one of the biggest and most prestigious bowling tournaments in the country, with P5 million worth of cash prizes at stake.



RIO de la Cruz and Joan Managat show their trophies after winning the men's and women's titles in the Legazpi City leg of the Milo Marathon. With them are city councilors Rolly Rosal (left) and Alfredo Garbin Jr. (right) and Milo Events AVP Pat Goc Ong.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2007

Malaysia's Danny Chia enjoyed one of his best starts this season to also score a 71 alongside local player Chen Jung-hsing, who is also the coach of Ming-tsuan.

Juvic Pagunsan, last year's Asian Tour Rookie of the Year, was the next best Filipino with a 73 followed by former Vietnam Masters champion Angelo Que who shot a 74 and Gerald Rosales who carded a 76.

Tony Lascuña struggled to a 78 and needs a big round tomorrow to make it to the weekend play.

SPORTSWATCH

Jao, Aguilar, Buncio dispute Rider of the Year award

IT WILL BE A THREE-WAY BATTLE AMONG defending champion Jolo Jac of Shell Advance-Kawasaki, Gian Aguilar and Yamaha's Maico Buncio for the Rider of the Year award in the culmination of the 2007 Shell Advance Superbikes Series tomorrow and Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The first two races are set on Saturday. The last two on Sunday will decide the winner of the much-coveted award.

The series, sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association, will also stage the Invitational Underbone competition featuring Buncio in the 125cc division and 13-year-old Fil-Japanese Dashi Watanabe in the 110cc class.

Spectators are looking forward to another big duel between Jao and Aguilar.

But this time, Buncio will get his equal share of the limelight as he currently leads the top rider race with 176 points despite his two runner-up finishes in the last leg.

Jao is 13 points behind Buncio with 163.

PCA netters nip MLTC

PHILIPPINE COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION ON 4-3, last Sunday in the 2007 Baboy Home and Away team tennis tournament at the MLTC courts.

PCA tied MLTC in the lead with 3-2 records followed by Mandaluyong, Valle Verde and Acropolis tennis clubs which have identical 2-2 slates.

Newcomer Celebrity Sports Tennis Club fell to MLTC 0-7, for its fourth straight loss.

Manila Water, BPI bets shine

MIGUEL CRISOL OF MANILA WATER Company and Grace Roces of Bank of the Philippine Islands emerged King and Queen of the Lanes, respectively, in the 2007 Ayala Group tanpin bowling tournament at Rockwell's PowerBowl Lanes in Makati.

Crisol, a member of the national training pool, beat BPI's Paulo Zosa in the men's final, 254-227, while top favorite Roces defeated Ayala Corp.'s May Dalu in the ladies title match, 184-140.

Both Crisol and Roces earlier topped a four-game shoot-out among top qualifiers—to earn a bye and a twice-to-beat advantage in the stepladder competitions.

Pasay 4-stag derby kicks off

SOME 60 FIGHTS SPICE UP THE SECOND leg of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-Cock Derby series today at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as backer.

Pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butch Oiano said among those ready to field their ace fowls are Jake Macasaet, LB Candearia, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Arman Santos, Lito Roque, Gerry Ramos, Benjie Lim, Tony Lasaga, Dodie Mamad Villarubio and Rodolfo Pineda.

Meanwhile, the Battle of the Big Boys 7-Stag Derby hosted by Gerry Ramos and the Firefly group resumes in November.

Pasig Square stagfest today

LEADING COCKERS AND BREEDERS from Rizal and Metro Manila clash today in the Winner-Take-All 3-Stag Derby at the Pasig Square Garden.

This one-day stagfest, supported by the Rizal Gamecock Breeders Association (RGBA), features 70 or so fights.

According to promoters Danny Ty and Manny Berbano, participants are entitled to 80 percent of derby proceeds.

Screening of stags, eight to 10 months old, will be held from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The venue's "Fastest Win One-Cock Ultutan" follows Tuesday with P300,000 up for grabs for an entry fee of P1,650.

Race 1—(M)	Rally Queen/
(4)	Empress King
(4)	Dancing Queen
(3)	Earl Gray
(2)	Queen
Race 2—(M)	—Remain (2), Naughty (1), Dancing Queen (5)
Race 3—(Qr/Tf)	Hepburn (2), Misa Melabon (4), Look Who's Playing (7), Pure Energy (1)
Race 4—(Penta/Qr/Tf)	Extreme Machine (3), Balang Eleven (5), Posse Comitatus (2), Showoff (7), Visionary (4)
Race 5—(Qr/Tf)	Stop Talking (1), Heroic/Immortal Star (4), Sartous Sustis (6), Regal Boom (3)
Race 6—(Penta/Qr/Tf)	Lady Cupal (3), Mr. Victory (8), Acquiem/Harold's Magic (9), Miss Hypno (1), Ultra Rose (4)
Race 7—(Qr/Tf)	Bul Rock (4), Kryptonite (5), Boot Legs (7), Lady Inday (6)
Race 8—(Qr/Tf)	Can-And Will (4), Loveli Tara (7), Queen Of Gala (3), Mary Jane Bomb/Play It Again (1)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qr/Tf)	King's Crown/Modern Classic (8), Powerhouse (6), Four Belles (1), Anytime/Anywhere/Mister Cool (3), Holy King (5), Hoy Sobra N (4)



The Name is Domecq: A Classic Offering from the House of Domecq

Domecq. The illustrious name glides off one's tongue the way an excellent brandy slides down one's throat. Usually uttered in hushed, reverent tones among brandy connoisseurs, the name Pedro Domecq has become synonymous with the phrase "tradition of quality". Knowledge of the Domecq name has been verbally passed on from father to son over generations, as seasoned elders recount and share their memorable Domecq experiences with the up and coming generation of loyal drinkers.

For nearly two hundred years, the celebrated House of Domecq has been seducing the palate

of the ever-discerning wine aficionado by bottling wines and spirits of exemplary quality. So remarkable were these concoctions and vintages that even Spanish and English royalty have been known to favor and savor the robust tastes of Domecq wines and spirits. Pedro Domecq's fine products have truly traveled the world, exported in large quantities to different corners of the globe, satisfying the cravings of drinkers from different continents. From Northern Europe to the Americas to the flourishing Asian markets, Domecq's multi-awarded spirits and wines brands have certainly become the benchmark by which other manufacturers measure and compare their own products to. In the Philippines, Domecq brandies continue to lead the way, becoming

icons of excellence and incomparable taste.

The Name

But the many accolades and prestigious honors given by the International spirit industry did not come instantly for the House of Domecq. In fact, the Domecq story goes back centuries, and serves as an example of true pioneering spirit and determination. The year was 1820, and provincial French nobleman Pedro Domecq crossed the border into Spain where he came across a stirring vision: To set up a bodega of the finest wines and spirits in Spain. The mental blueprint of this bodega was so very clear in his mind's eye that, just two years later, Domecq decided to make his ambition real. It was then that

he acquired a precious piece of land in Andalucia, Spain, and forged the foundations of the distinguished company called "Pedro Domecq".

The romance of Jerez de la Frontera, where hectares and hectares of fertile, rolling hills meet the cool ocean breeze to produce most of Spain's valuable sherry grapes, became the backdrop of the country's world-famous-and now centuries-old-brandy-making tradition. After all it was within the hallowed walls of the Domecq bodegas that Spanish brandy was first discovered.

Thanks to his innovative spirit and courageous vision, Pedro Domecq revolutionized the wines and spirits market. In fact, it is quite safe to assume three things one, that the history of Brandy de

Jerez is closely entwined with the history of the Domecq family; two, that Brandy de Jerez is the most popular Spanish brandy in the market today; and three, that Domecq brandies are probably the most sought-after in the world, recognized for their excellent and enduring qualities.

The Method

Domecq brandies go through a meticulous ageing and fractional blending method indigenous only to Jerez. This time-honored process is called the "Solera System". Massive oak casks, previously used to store sweet-tasting sherry wine in the late-19th century, are now devoted to maturing distilled wine into brandy. These durable oaken barrels are stacked in rows, with the bottom-most row of barrels resting on the cool earthen floor of the cavernous bodegas. The bottom row of barrels, called the "Soleras", actually contain the oldest, and most flavorful brandies.

In simple terms, the Solera System marries the tastes of the same spirit-but of differing maturity. Whenever spirits are drawn for bottling from the "Soleras", it is then refreshed by the addition of a younger spirit from the "Criaderas" above it. Even though the younger vintages may be less complex, the two liquids continue ageing and intermingling in a single oak barrel, with their tastes coming together. The younger spirits take on the characteristics of the older ones, refining the taste over time. Not surprisingly being the first brandy bodega in Jerez it only follows that the House of Domecq boasts some of the region's oldest "Soleras". The result of the distinctive process is a complex and rich combination that never fails to dazzle the palate.

As this unique system of blending ensures that no particular quality of any distilled wine overshadows another, continuous quality and style is maintained. In fact, a single bottle of brandy may actually be a delightful blend of brandies withdrawn from four or more Soleras-with each aged Solera being supported by a series of younger Criaderas. The intermingling of matured brandies assures the brandy-lover that his flavor expectations will be met with every bottle.

Authorization and Classifications

The production, ageing and distribution of brandies in Jerez are vigilantly monitored by the Consejo Regulador, the governing authority on all things pertaining to Brandy de Jerez. Brandies that do not meet the unwavering standards of the Consejo, will not enjoy the endorsement from the influential group (incidentally composed of representatives from the manufacturers themselves) and cannot carry the marking of "Brandy de Jerez". The Consejo Regulador has established three official classifications of Brandy de Jerez: Solera, Solera Reserva and Solera Gran Reserva.

The Consejo has defined a Solera as a brandy made from "holandas" (or distilled wine) aged for a period averaging one year. The superior Solera Reserva category, are brandies also made with select "holandas" but have been blended and aged for a longer period, averaging a good 3 years of steady maturation. The legendary Solera Gran Reservas of Jerez undergo prolonged and painstaking ageing that lasts many, many years.

The Superior Standard

Now, the established name in fine wines and brandies introduces a new soon-to-be-celebrated name to local shores: Domecq 1820. So perfect is its balance of intensity and silkiness that this is the only Solera Reserva deemed worthy of bearing the esteemed Pedro Domecq's name. Truly, the new superior standard in brandy has arrived.

The rich history, steadfast commitment, and brandy-making expertise of the House of Domecq flawlessly come together in every bottle of Domecq 1820. A rare and select Solera Reserva Brandy, Domecq 1820 undergoes an average of three years of ageing in the Solera System. One only has to glance at its deep, amber color to immediately know that this pleasing blend is indeed aged much longer than the standard Solera brandy. Without a doubt, it is the bottled embodiment of two hundred years of brandy-making tradition.

From its sleek bottle, to its striking red black and gold box, Domecq 1820 exudes elegance. Produced, aged, and bottled in Spain, Domecq 1820 boasts a smooth taste, sweet aroma, and a full-bodied finish. Its nose is undeniably distinguished, inviting and lasting. A harmonious, fruity taste with delightful hints of sherry, vanilla and oak, characterize this extraordinary Pedro Domecq brandy.

The Tribute

When swirling in your brandy snifter, you can expect the velvety, deep amber hues of Domecq 1820 to invoke vivid images of radiant Andalusian sunshine, passionate flamenco dancers, and powerfully-built horses racing along the vista. The robust and enticing bouquet flowing in one's nose will stir images of the vast Domecq bodegas, lined with oak barrels older than the turn of the century. The specially-matured spirit cupped in your palm will quickly warm your soul and infuse you with legendary Spanish passion. Every golden sip enters effortlessly, leading to a luxurious palate, and finishing with a subtle, lingering grace. This smooth, full-bodied Solera Reserva brandy is a fitting tribute to an influential man gifted with far-reaching vision and exceptional resolve.

Domecq 1820. Premium Aged by Pedro Domecq.



Master Brandy Maker Pedro Domecq proudly bestows his name on this extraordinary Solera Reserva.

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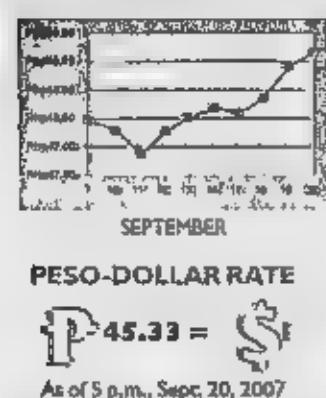
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Gov't sees P1.9B from sale of Global City lot

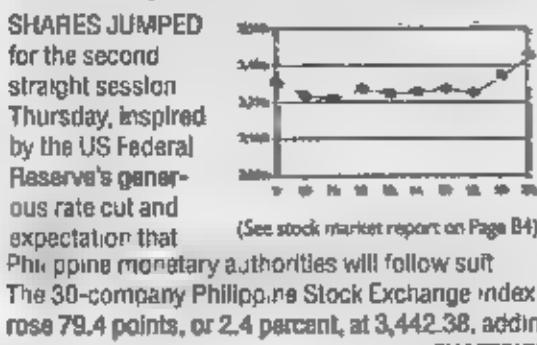
INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Shares up 2.4% to 6-week high



8 firms vie for 1.2-hectare prime property

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY expects to earn P1.9 billion from the sale of a 1.2 hectare prime lot in Bonifacio Global City.

Already, eight top real estate developers have expressed their interest in joining the second bidding for the property.

Aileen Zosa of BCDA yesterday said the property set for sale or joint venture was part of the third phase of the agency's Asset Disposition Program.

Known as the Expanded Big

zation—Ayala Land Inc., Ascendas, Century Properties, Filinvest Land, IPM Realty Corp., Landco Pacific, and Robinsons Land.

The first bidding, held in the third quarter of 2006, failed because the transfer of the land title was not allowed as it was still under a mortgage.

BCDA has mortgaged the property with Banco de Oro, to secure a standby facility amid anticipation of a shortfall of funds for its Subic-Clark-Tarlac

GOVT SEES/B2

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Enough food for Christmas, DA assures public/B8

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2GO

RP posts current account surplus of \$3.7B

Trade-in-goods deficit reduced by 11.4% to \$3B

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE PHILIPPINES YIELDED A CURRENT ACCOUNT surplus of \$3.7 billion in the first semester, up 42 percent from last year's figure, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

Monetary authorities attributed this development to robust inflows from overseas workers and lower trade deficit.

The hefty expansion in surplus reflected the sharp rise in net current transfers due to strong remittances from overseas Filipinos, which rose by 13.4 percent to \$6.6 billion during the same period last year.

Also, the trade-in-goods deficit narrowed by 11.4 percent to \$3 billion from last year's deficit of \$3.4 billion as export growth outpaced the increase in import expenditures.

"The key export drivers were manufacturers—mainly electronics, machinery and transport, chemicals, wood, processed food and beverages—and iron and steel, minerals, petroleum products, fruits and vegetables and other agro-based products," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

During the period, export earnings went up 7.3 percent while import bill rose by only 4.9 percent.

The first-semester current account resulted in a balance of payments surplus of \$3.2 billion during the period, up 56.8 percent from the \$2-billion surplus a year ago.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world.

The current account, a major component of the balance of payments, includes trade-in-goods and income accounts.

For the full year, the BSP expects the current account to go up to as much as \$6.4 billion.

The regulator also sees a BOP surplus of \$6.3 billion by year's end.

Shares up ... From page B1

to 4.6 percent the gains in the past two days. It was the index's highest level since July 31. Gainers swamped losers 77 to 29, with 53 stocks ending unchanged.

"A possible cut in local interest rates here will encourage people to borrow and invest more for expansion, thereby helping economic growth to accelerate," said Banco de Oro market strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. closed at P2,830—higher by 2.5 percent from its previous close. Ayala Corp. surged 2.5 percent to P2,830. AP

Organic versus chemical fertilizers

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

THE CHOICE OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS, over inorganic varieties, may be viewed in the context of a story about Mang Jose. He was seen by Mang Pedro hurriedly cutting wood with a dull saw to meet a one-month production volume target.

Mang Pedro asked, "why don't you stop cutting wood and sharpen your saw first?"

Mang Jose replied, "I don't have time to do that. Can't you see I'm rushing?"

Long vs short term

In that story, Mang Jose's decision to continue using the dull saw might be correct in the short term, but foolish in the long run. The decision to overuse chemical fertilizers is similar to Mang Jose's decision.

With increased demand for food caused by our rapidly burgeoning population, we have begun to rely heavily on chemical fertilizers to rapidly increase production. In the short run, this has been effective.

But as we use more chemical fertilizers, our land becomes less fertile. This has led us to use even more such fertilizers, thus resulting in a dangerous downward spiral. This kind of agriculture is simply not sustainable.

Based on the data compiled by Florence Mojica-Sevilla of the University of Asia and the Pacific, imported chemical fertilizers in 2005 have more than doubled from the 2001 levels, while domestic product sales have been cut in half (see table on the right). For organic fertilizers, volume has tripled. But sadly, it is still less than 1 percent of chemical fertilizers.

Chemical fertilizer prices have also become a heavy burden for farmers to bear. The price of urea has more than doubled, while that of 14-14-14 has increased by more than 85 percent. The data appeared in Mojica-Sevilla's, "The Philippine Fertilizer Industry."

Gov't sees P1.9B ...

Expressway project

Zosa said in an interview last August that BCDA had secured a P1-billion loan from BDO, which would partially cover a P6-billion project for SCTEx.

For the second bidding, set on Nov. 5,

CHEMICAL AND ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

YEAR	IMPORTS	DOMESTIC	ORGANIC	PRICE (Peso / 50kg bag)	
				UREA	NPK 14-14-14
2001	1,030	1,945	6.8	P440	P427
2002	910	1,805	1.9	P424	436
2003	1,640	1,540	3.5	P550	477
2004	1,872	1,671	16.2	P741	660
2005	2,140	978	20.6	P950	798

A strong case can be made for the desirability and urgency of using organic fertilizers. Given the impact of global warming, climate change and increased environmental degradation, we must now prioritize the restoration of ecological balance. The use of chemical fertilizers not only damages our soil fertility, which we need to produce our food, it also threatens our health and well-being. Many chemical fertilizers today cannot just be washed off with water. They penetrate and become part of the food we eat. However, moving immediately and completely to organic fertilizers is often not realistic.

One of the agencies I supervised at the Department of Agriculture (DA) was the Bureau of Soils and Water Management. Its research, which I witnessed first-hand, showed that when one moves to purely organic fertilizers in one season, production generally drops.

The recommended approach is to use a balanced fertilization strategy, using an optimal combination of organic and chemical fertilizers for a given site. The organic fertilizer component restores the important

macro and micro nutrients needed to recover soil fertility, while the chemical fertilizer help sustain production volume. In the long run, production volume increases with the rise in use of organic fertilizers.

Success story

Roberto Salido (0917-5342378), president of Sagana Inc. and former president of the Organic Fertilizer

Manufacturers Association, has made a breakthrough. This is consistent with the many awards Salido has received, such as the Panday-Pira Award from the Office of the President, Most Outstanding Inventor Award from the Department of Science and Technology, and the Golden Medal Award from the World Intellectual Property Organization. He has also published an acclaimed article, "The Growing Tragedy of the Sick Soil."

Salido has formulated a balanced fertilization package which uses a chemical component of only 5 percent, which produces an immediate increase in yield. Examples of these achievements are seen in many parts of the country today covering crops such as rice, corn and sugar.

But he, and other organic fertilizer manufacturers like him, are receiving inadequate attention and support.

During the last six years, the DA granted a loan to 10 organic fertilizer manufacturers of P1 million each. We applaud the DA for this, but hope that, with Secretary Arthur Yap at the helm, this kind of support will increase significantly. According to Salido, this can be done in various ways, such as systematic technology transfer, increased training, and a greater loan allocation for organic fertilizers.

It is hoped that the DA will change the current trend of chemical fertilizer overuse. The DA should instead intensify its innovative organic agriculture program, and provide more support for organic fertilizers. This will result in increasing farmer incomes, ensuring food security, safeguarding our people's health, and restoring our nation's ecological balance.

(The author is the chair of Agri-watch, former member in charge of Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).

From page B1

BCDA now requires bidders to include in their proposals a way through which the mortgage's limitation of title transfer may be resolved.

Zosa said the 12,036-sq.m. property was classified as mixed use, meaning

the area could be developed into residential, office and commercial and retail complex.

She added that the developer could put up on the lot a building with a gross floor area of about 144,000 sq.m.

The lot is on 5th avenue, across the Fort and in the gateway of city center

that is also an economic zone. It is touted to be the "prime portion" of Bonifacio Global City.

"Developers can avail of Peza (Philippine Economic Zone Authority) incentives if their project is qualified and registered under Peza rules and law," Zosa said.

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Mercedes-Benz

Philip Morris chooses Subic as site for \$20-M tobacco hub

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING INC. has chosen to set up its \$20-million tobacco warehouse complex in Subic instead of going to Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

"This decision shows PMPMI's confidence in Subic when it comes to efficiency and cost effectiveness, as well as the attractiveness of the country's investment environment in general," said SBMA administrator Armand C. Arreza in a joint statement with PMPMI managing director Chris Nelson.

Nelson said PMPMI would put in an initial \$600,000 to repair a US Navy-era warehouse and widen Switzerland-based Philip Morris International's transshipment operations in Asia-Pacific.

The refurbished warehouse is expected to be ready for use by the first week of November, as PMPMI has scheduled the first transshipment for Nov. 9.

Nelson said the company chose Subic for its regional hub because of its cost advantages and its proximity to PMPMI's Batangas factory.

The existing warehouse can hold six million tons of tobacco leaf while a new facility to be put up in 2009 can store 25 million tons of tobacco leaves.

Nelson said PMPMI now exports cigarettes to Thailand, French Polynesia, Micronesia and Hong Kong; pro-

cessed tobacco to South Korea, Cambodia and Pakistan; and expanded tobacco products to Malaysia, Bangladesh and India.

"Our thrust is to increase the PMPMI's logistics efficiency and help bring locally produced tobacco products to markets around the world," he said.

Nelson explained that by buying flue-cured tobacco leaf from the Ilocos region, traditional Burley tobacco from Pangasinan and Burley tobacco from Isabela—which PMPMI helped develop—the firm directly benefits some 37,000 tobacco growers.

He said putting up the Subic regional leaf warehouse would further increase PMPMI's purchases of the Isabela Burley variety, which is the only Philippine-grown tobacco to pass international standards.

Nelson said the firm had gradually increased its local purchases from less than 500 tons in 2001, to almost 1,500 tons in 2003, and close to 2,000 tons in 2005.

PMPMI expects its purchases of local tobacco leaves to exceed 3,000 tons this year.

Also, he said the Subic facility would serve as a regional storage center mainly for

Asian tobacco leaf that would be used by the PMPMI factory in Batangas, or exported to other PMI production facilities abroad.



PRULINK		PRU LIFE UK LTD	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts		Current Week	Last Week
Bond Fund - Peso	1 62274	1 60467	
Managed Fund - Peso	1 88718	1 85266	
Growth Fund - Peso	1 76350	1 76252	
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1 3949	1 3778	

Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

INSULAR LIFE		Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure	
		UNIT PRICES (in Pph)	
		Sept. 17, 2007	Sept. 10, 2007
Fixed Income Fund		1.288164	1.280342
Balanced Fund		1.423441	1.416944
Equity Fund		1.658722	1.653908

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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It's time to look at integrated networking for business in a new way. But it seems that business solutions bandy about the same confusing terms like "ICT integrated networks", "integrated network services", that can mean the same or different things, depending on the context. These words are used. People who want to learn more are swamped by a wave of simple and yet confusing words.

PLDT SNAP! simply put, is the best choice you have to enable the IT solution that you need in your company at affordable monthly payments. You could think of it as an entire IT division of routers, server solutions, desktops, and laptops complete with helpdesk support, and of course the right broadband connectivity that comes straight out of a box to plug into your running operations. Integrated networking, in a "SNAP-sense" if you will, delivers all the basic functionality of a company's IT set-up virtually fuss-free.

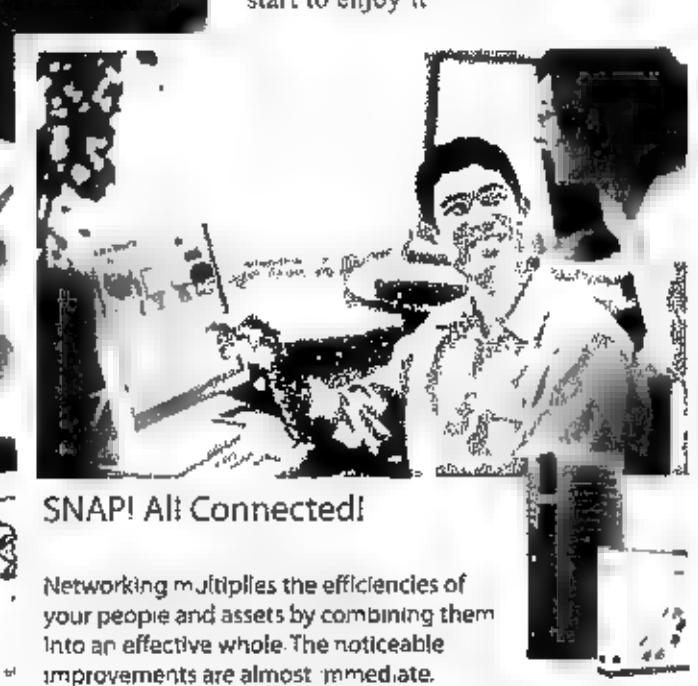
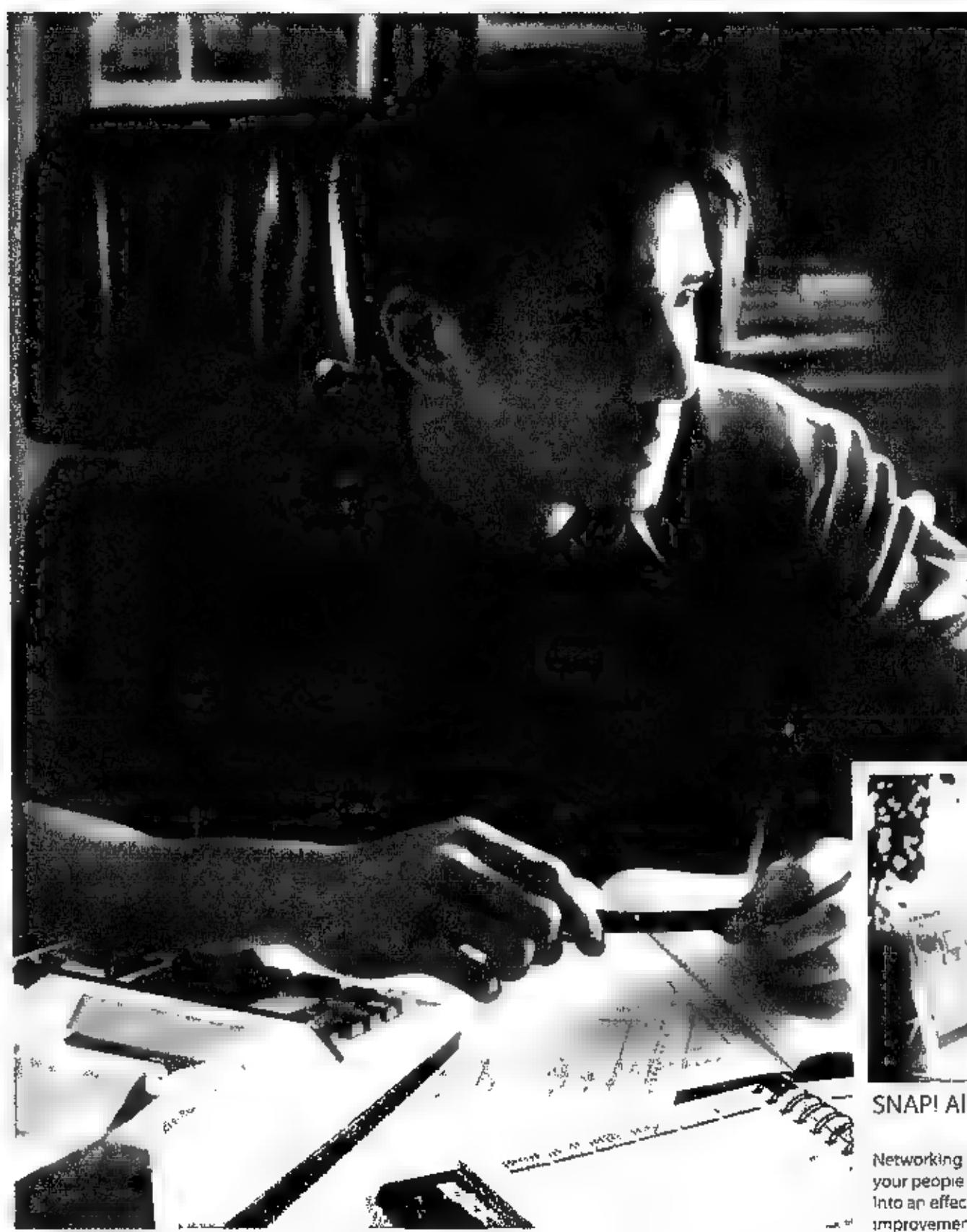
If your business is enjoying steady growth, increasing orders and an expanding customer base, you're also probably finding it harder to keep track of it all. The exponential increase in workflow monitoring, reports and associated files and paperwork is the inevitable outcome of your success. Ironically, success can begin to hurt.

Trying to use old tools like phones, faxes, and unconnected computers is a haphazard way to manage success, which is all about momentum. When you stall on success, it turns ugly real fast with opportunities lost today and worse of all for the future. Customers and prospects come to view your company as inept, unable to service them up to the standards they expect.

Once the territory of larger more established companies, networking comes in a SNAP for every size of business up and down the line. It's not the exclusive province of big business anymore, nowadays, squeezing every bit of efficiency out of your operations is an irresistible imperative.

PLDT SNAP! is a new integrated network of today's modern business tools. You get the best hardware - network routers and switches, easy-to-set-up server solutions, and desktops and laptops complete with helpdesk support to complement your chosen PLDT broadband networking connectivity. How tight can this package get? Well, even in terms of cost and value, it's a winner - instead of having to make a huge capital outlay for equipment, personnel and training, you get the whole PLDT SNAP! solution delivered and fully installed for you.

PLDT SNAP! is the package of today's complete modern business tools. It's just what you need to manage your success and actually start to enjoy it.





Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

**NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S
FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)**

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
FIL-OREAN LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSING INC. Sum 19J Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila	Jin Yong Kim Korean	Manager
FIL-OREAN LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSING INC. Sum 19J Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila	Sooch Shin Korean	General Manager
ACCENT/STI BANAWE MANAGEMENT INC. 2/F Phl. First Building, 8784 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Donald Lee Weidemann American	President
SEOGLINEKOREA INC. Rm 402 Executive Center Adriatico St., Malate, Manila	Hwe Hyung Jung Korean	Consultant
JUN CORPORATION 17/F World Center Condominium, 330 San Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Veronica Noviany Indonesian	Customer Support Service Representative
PAN-ASIA INVESTMENTS GROUP HOLDING CO. INC. Jln 2505 Union Bank Plaza, Mexico Ave., Pasig City	Nan Ye Chinese	Marketing Consultant
MITSUI & CO. LTD. (MANILA BRANCH) 38/F GT Tower International, 8815 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ryoichi Funaki Japanese	General Manager
POYRY ENERGY, INC. Bf Kings Court, 2122 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City	Richard Frank Royston Sleath British	Project Scheduler
DOO WON SJ CONSULTANCY CORP. 3 Aurora Arcade, Isidora Hills, Holy Spirit, Quezon City	Seung Dell Hong Korean	Korean Embassy Representative
WIN-A-PARTNER INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS INC. Unit 5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 A. Makati St., Makati, Manila	Jia Hui Chinese	Director
WIN-A-PARTNER INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS INC. Unit 5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 A. Makati St., Makati, Manila	Yajuan Wang Korean	Chairman of the Board
SURECO PC CORP. 123 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Huiqiang Yang Chinese	Sales Manager
MUSE DE ASIA ENTERTAINMENT INC. 5779 Zobel Rizal St., Palanan, Makati City	Yun Su Bae Korean	Operation Manager
5779 Zobel Rizal St., Palanan, Makati City	Hiroyoshi Tanaka Japanese	Operation Manager
	Takao Yokoyama Japanese	Finance Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

*for RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director*

(PDI Sept. 21 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Be it known that warrants of arrest of MR. APOLINAR RECINTO MARASIGAN of Brgy. Duhatan, Lipa City, Batangas whose picture appears above have been issued by the Municipal Trial Court of Lipa City in Criminal Case Nos. 08-0145 and 06-0362 to 06-0367 for violation of Batas Pambansa Bilang 22.

Positive information leading to his arrest shall be rewarded. Please direct any information leading to his arrest or whereabouts to:

LUCKY 4A CORPORATION

Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City, 4217 Batangas
Tel. Nos.: (043)404-1340, (043)404-1342 and (043)404-1343

(PDI-Sept. 8 & 11 2007)



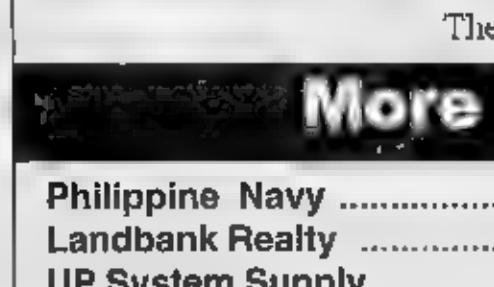
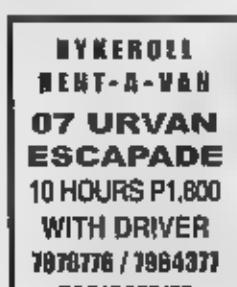
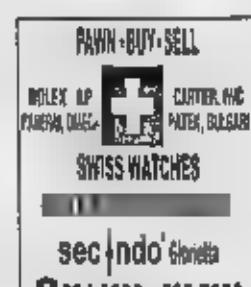
P6,606/mo*
*P&G Housing Loan

531-4121*534-9921*531-1384*534-8350
(0920)950-4626*(0915)317-5553*(0920)911-0002
www.guevent.com *bri@guevent.com

Notice of Loss

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Pancake House, Inc. Stock Certificate No. 370 covering 1,000,000 shares in the name of Lourdes Beatrice L. Benitez. Should no one contest on or before Sept. 28, 2007, a new stock certificate will be issued to replace the lost certificate.

(PDI-Sept. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
POLOMOLOK WATER DISTRICT
National Highway, Polomolok, South Cotabato

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

- The Polomolok Water District, with the Approved Budget for 2007 intends to apply the sum (See schedule below) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under contracts as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
- The Polomolok Water District now invites Bids from ACCREDITED & ELIGIBLE BIDDERS for the following:

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract	BID SECURITY (1% OF ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
1	Procurement of Upr. Pipes and Fittings	P 4,049.00	P 40.49	P 3,500.00
2	Procurement of Steel & G.I. Pipes, C., Fittings & Gate Valves	P 1,212,259.20	P 12,122.59	P 1,500.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (RA. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (CA. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check described in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB the bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Polomolok Water District and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from September 28 to Oct. 04, 2007, 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.

- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount (stated in Item no. 2), the method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The Polomolok Water District will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Interested parties on October 05, 2007 @ 9:00 A.M. at PWD Board Room, Polomolok Water District, National Highway, Polomolok, South Cotabato

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below or before the bidding scheduled time and date of 9:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash or Manager's Check in the amount (stated in Item no. 2). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be at the PWD Board Room, Polomolok Water District, National Highway, Polomolok, South Cotabato on the following schedule:

PACKAGE No.	BIDDING SCHEDULE, TIME & DATE
1	October 17, 2007 @ 9:00 AM
2	October 18, 2007 @ 9:00 AM

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

- The Polomolok Water District reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to cancel the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc (ZAMCELCO) at Pulk. this City per requisites under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards. Invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items. to wit:

No Quantity Unit Item Description

1	4 UNITS	DIST. TRANSFORMER, 75KVA, PHILIC, WAGNER OR ITS EQUIVALENT SPEC'S: - 2 DYNAMIC BUSHING, OR, IMMERSED, 1 PHASE - 7.520-13200V WYE / 12-240 VOLTS BRAND NEW AGENCY PRICE P161,700.00
---	---------	--

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Pulk. this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of Sept. 22 2007 and no documents appearing thereto, shall be accepted thereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on September 27, 2007.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 27, 2007. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCECO.

(Sgd.) REINERIO R. RAMOS
General Manager

(PDI-Sept. 21 & 28, 2007)



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
JAPAN FUND FOR POVERTY REDUCTION - SOUTHERN LEYTE LANDSLIDE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROJECT
PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Compound
Mausin City, Southern Leyte
Construction of School Buildings
Grant No. 9102

- The local Government Unit of the Province of Southern Leyte has received a Grant from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) thru Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Southern Leyte Landslide Disaster Assistance Project and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract for the Construction of School Buildings.

- The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte thru the JFPR-SLDAP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction of the following school buildings, as will:

Name of Contract	Location	Approved Budget Cost	Contract Duration
1. Three (3) Units Building: Two (2) Classroom-Lands Elementary School Two (2) Classroom-Bacul II Primary School Two (2) Classroom-Mataog Norte Elementary School	Mausin City, Hwy 4,000,000.00	60 C.D.	
2. One (1) Joint Building: Three (3) Classroom San Rafael National High School	Mausin City	Pph 1,845,810.00	60 C.D.
3. Two (2) Units Building: Two (2) Classroom - Tagbawayan Integrated School & Two (2) Classroom Yantin Elementary School	Mausin City	Pph 2,787,271.17	60 C.D.
4. One (1) Joint Building: Two (2) Classroom Bogay Elementary School	Mausin	Pph 375,860.29	60 C.D.

- Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures as defined in "Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans."

- The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

- Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Documents is on October 4, 2007 not later than 5:00 p.m. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from JFPR-SLDAP, Provincial BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on September 21 to October 4, 2007.

- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Eligible Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Pph 5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before October 15, 2007.

- The JFPR-SLDAP/Provincial BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at 10:00 a.m. on October 6, 2007 at the following address: JFPR-SLDAP, Project Implementation Unit Office, PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given above at 10:00 a.m.

- The Bidders must submit their Bids at the address given below on or before October 22, 2007 9:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security either in the form of Cash, Cashier's Check or Irrevocable Letter of Credit which is 1% of ABC or Unconditional Bank Guarantee equivalent to 1.5% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on October 22, 2007 at the JFPR-SLDAP, PIL Office, PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given above at 10:00 a.m.

- The JFPR-SLDAP/Provincial BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to cancel the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

JFPR-SLDAP
VIRGINIA LILY CRUZ/Project Director
PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte
Tel No. (053) 570-8775
Fax: (053) 38

OBITUARIES



"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die." — John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory
of our
Beloved Mama

FELICITAS VILLARAMA CUNANAN

(OCTOBER 17, 1918 - SEPTEMBER 21, 2006)

on her FIRST Death Anniversary

Her loving children: Eddie and Cherrie, Rony and Connie, Cherry and Jun Villena, Lynch and Estoy Estorninos, Aris and Dena, Abet, grandchildren Gina, Cheche, Michelle, Jayr, Kiko, Bingo, Elmo, Ria, Vincent, Andrew, Prunch, Klarise; great-grandchildren AC, Cobbee, Enzo, Ryan, Zelyn request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses will be offered for her on September 21, 2007 at the following:

National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Kamboon, Q.C.	5:30 AM
Sacred Heart of Jesus Chaplaincy, Hillsborough, Alabang	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Atonement, Baguio Cathedral	6:00 AM
St. Joseph Church, Pandal, Baguio	6:30 AM
Our Lady of Hope Parish, Pag-aso, Q.C.	6:30 AM
St. Jerome Emiliani Parish, Alabang	12:15 PM
St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:30 PM

**HIS EMINENCE GAUDENCIO B. CARDINAL ROSALES, D.D.**

Archbishop of Manila

The auxiliary bishops and clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila, bereaved brothers and sisters-in-law Antonio & Amalia and Sebastian & Rafaela, bereaved sisters: Dra. Juvenila, Bartolomé and Amancio, relatives and friends

deeply mourn the demise of

REV. MSGR. GORGONIO L. ENCARNACION

who passed away on September 19, 2007 at the age of 92

Monsignor Encarnacion was a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Manila. His last assignment was as Parish Priest of Espiritu Santo Parish, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

His remains now lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to Espiritu Santo Parish, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila in the morning of September 22, 2007 where a Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 A.M. with His Excellency Most Rev. Broderick S. Pahillo, D.D. as the main celebrant, after which, his remains will be transferred again to San Roque Parish in Lemery, Batangas.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, September 23, 2007, 1:00 P.M. at the San Roque Parish, Lemery, Batangas. Interment follows at Santuario de Taal, Taal, Batangas.

The faithful are requested to pray for the repose of his soul

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DONATA TUASON HERRERA

who passed away on August 17, 2007

wish to thank all those who offered prayers and Masses, sent flowers, donations and messages of sympathy, kept vigil and in countless ways condoled and comforted us during our time of bereavement.

**Dr. Martin C. Macapanpan**

Passed away on the 15th of September 2007 at the age of 89.

He is survived by his dear wife Erondina; their children - Roxy, Tristan, Brenda and Loy, and their spouses - Jun Sison, Bebot Valera, Val Ambrosio, and Bonbon Jimenez, their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren, and by his brother, Hernan.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 1 Monkserrat, Loyola Memorial Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque

There will be a funeral Mass at Loyola Memorial Chapel on September 23, 2007, Sunday at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

In lieu of flowers, his family kindly requests that donations in his name be made to Friends of PGH or other worthwhile charities.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Timothy 5:8

ROSILA P. MABANAG

January 15, 1933 - September 18, 2007

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 18, 2007 at the age of 74

Her loving husband Engr. Ramon R. Mabanag, children Ricardo (+), Edgar & Minnie, Mila Evelyn & David, Doris and Eddie; grandchildren and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Jacinto Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City

Interment will be on Saturday, September 22, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 2:00 p.m. mass

BENJAMIN Z. OSIAS II

Joined his Creator on September 20 at the age of 59

His loved ones, TITO and Family, MALEN and children, request your prayers for the repose of his soul

Memorial services will be held at Arlington, Q.C. on Friday, September 21. He will be interred in La Union on Saturday, September 22.

We will miss you BENJ, but the Lord has a better place for you.

CLASSIFIEDS

Development Bank of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Construction of New DBP Marbel Branch Building

The Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch through its 2007 Corporate Budget intends to apply the sum of Eight Million being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for The Construction of a New DBP Marbel Branch Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for The Construction of a New Branch Building. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before October 8, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on October 12, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Responsible Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City on or before October 12, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on or before October 22, 2007.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Five Hundred (P3,500.00) Pesos. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before October 22, 2007, 3:00 p.m.

The Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on October 23, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before October 29, 2007, 10:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash or Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Surety Bond and in the amount of 1.0%, 1.0% & 2.5% of ABC, respectively or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on October 29, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 2:00 p.m. on October 29, 2007.

Completion of the Works is within 180 days from the Notice to Proceed.

The Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DBP, Marbel Branch
NOECHITA ANDAYA
Koronadal City
Tel # (083) 228-2428/228-3118
Fax # (083) 228-3667

(Sgd.) ATTY ELVIE ULLARAN-ALBAND
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Sept. 29 & 31 2007)

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loc 514.Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology**FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines

Tel. Nos.: 837-2934, 837-2071 to 82; Fax No. (032) 837-3164

FIGHT MALNUTRITION WITH ACCURATE DATA, CORRECT INFORMATION AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE - DOST Invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following item.

Item / Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/	Time	Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)	End-User
		Pre-Bid Conference	Final Opening of Bids		
1 unit Gas Chromatograph with Flame Ionization Detector	P 2.3 M	Sept. 27 2007 10:00 AM	Oct 8, 2007 10:00 AM	P 2,300.00	FSTD

Bid forms may be obtained from the FNRI - Bids and Awards - Secretariat, Property Section, FNRI Bldg., DOST Cptd., Bicutan, Taguig City, Metro Manila from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM during office hours starting September 18, 2007

Pre-Bid conference will be held on October 8, 2007 at the FNRI, Conference Room. Attendance is a MUST for all concerned parties namely, BAC members, Technical Working Group members and accredited suppliers

For more information, please call Ms. Yolanda G. Perlas / Mr. Hilarion "Jun" Sanchez, Jr. at the tel. no. 837-6149.

FNRI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. FNRI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in participating in the bidding.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA V. NARCISO, Ph.D.
Chairman, FNRI-Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Sept. 29 & 31 2007)

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KALAW : 528-0213; 527-3342 MEGAMALL : 635-0219; 635-0220

BUSINESS

Enough food for Christmas, DA assures public

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE yesterday assured the public of a stable supply of rice, vegetables, chicken and other basic food items this Christmas season, despite the prolonged dry spell.

"We continue to put in place a variety of measures to help ensure enough stocks of rice, chicken, meat, vegetables and other basic foodstuff at afford-

able prices on family tables between now and the yearend," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said.

Yap said the National Food Authority had already accounted for the supply of rice for the rest of the year and said it had enough buffer stock.

"We have no problem when it comes to the supply of rice this December," said Yap in a recent briefing. "As we move toward October, November, December,

our palay harvests would come in."

Because of the recent dry spell which struck Luzon regions, the harvest for the wet cropping season extended to November and December.

The expected additional harvests of some 300,000 metric tons of rice would come from DA's quick turnaround planting program, which involves a third cropping season in Visayas and Mindanao.

As for the supply of chicken, Yap said poultry growers have assured him during a recent meeting that they "have loaded enough chickens for the Christmas season."

Since the poultry sector is still recovering from the extended dry spell, producers have to import some three million kilos of chicken to ensure sufficient supply of the commodity during the holidays.

Yap also said there would be

enough pork for Christmas.

According to DA, the recent hog cholera outbreak in Bulacan had no impact on meat supply since the disease was confined only to a small portion of hog farms and was quickly contained.

As for vegetables, Yap said the supply, especially the upland varieties, would likewise remain stable due to additional production areas developed in the south, such as Laguna and Quezon.

Vegetable harvests from these new areas would offset any unexpected losses in Benguet and other Northern Luzon provinces, as triggered by abrupt weather changes, he added.

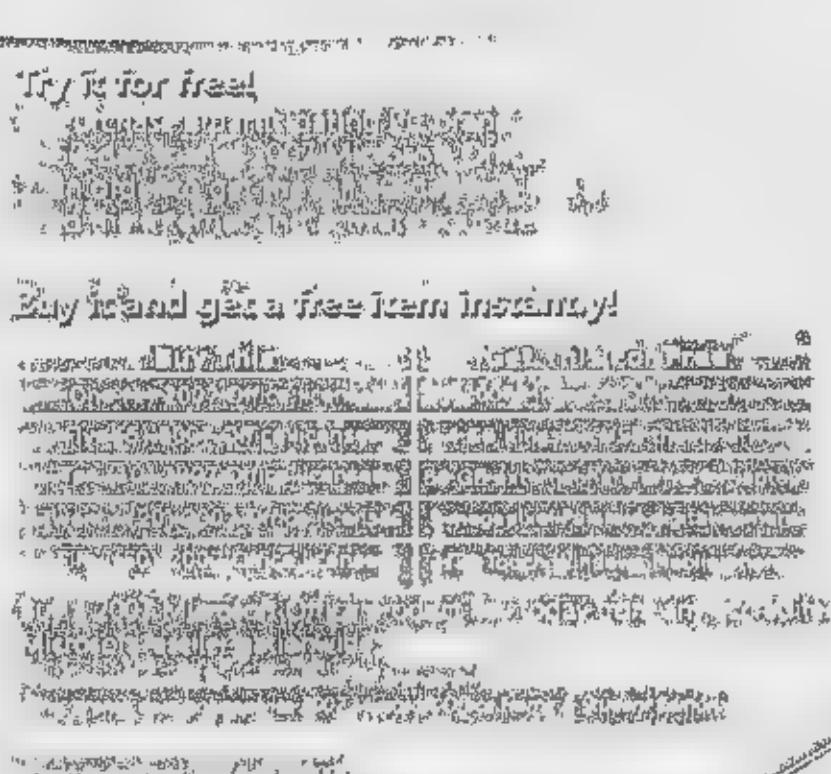
Yap also noted that the 28 bagsakal centers and barangay food terminals that the DA had opened would play a key role in ensuring the abundant supply, affordability and accessibility of these basic food items to consumers.

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BSP to prevent repeat of 'Arrovo' bill mishap

By Doris C. Dumla

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas is investing as much as P4 billion to modernize its bank note printing system to prevent a repeat of the "Arrovo" bill mishap.

BSP sources said the policy-making Monetary Board had agreed to buy two "superline" printing machines worth about P2 billion each so it would not have to outsource the printing of peso bank notes.

Two Christmases ago, a European printer that supplied 80 million P100 bills misspelled President Macapagal-Arroyo's name as "Arrovo."

As many as 2,092 million pieces were released for circulation before the error was discovered.

It was the first time such a printing error occurred.

The defective bills became a collector's item and sold at a hefty premium in online auctions, going for as much as P900 a piece at one point.

The purchase of the new printing machine for the BSP's Security Plant Complex in Quezon City will produce one billion additional bank notes each year, thus doubling the central bank's capacity.

The sources said the plan would be to eventually phase out vintage printing machines bought back in 1976 and 1981.

The new machines will perform the entire cycle of bank note production from layout to printing and bundling, the sources said.

"If you get the superline, then you'd be able to produce the right amount of bank notes and save on the double cost of outsourcing," one source said.

"Also, you modernize, because you'll be able to produce additional bank notes without employing the same number of people," the source added.

For 2008, the sources said the BSP expected to produce another billion worth of bank notes.

The sources also said that the new machine would reduce the risk of printing errors, like the "Arrovo" bills.

These Arrovo notes in circulation are still considered legal tender.

Bataan still good nuke plant site, says Reyes

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY is looking at Bataan, the host province of the mothballed 620-megawatt (MW) Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, as a possible site for a nuclear power facility.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the fact that the BNPP, although never operational, was still standing was proof enough of the safety of the site.

"We're looking at the site of the existing plant for the new facility. Since it has withstood earthquakes, typhoons and the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, it's only natural to consider it," he said in an interview on the sidelines of the PowerTrends 2007 exhibition and conference.

The government, however, needs at least seven years to study its plan to again consider nuclear power generation.

He cited the case of Thailand, which started its study on the

possibility of setting up a nuclear power facility seven years ago, but decided only a month ago to actually go ahead and put up a plant.

"It takes 15-20 years to put up a nuclear power plant, around seven years of which would be spent on a comprehensive study as well as on building up a human resource pool," he said.

"We were ahead in 1987 (with the BNPP), but the nuclear engineers then, if they haven't practiced in years, would not be able to help us with our plans now. Nuclear technology has already evolved so much over the past years," he added.

The study should include not only the safest and most cost-effective way of putting up and eventually operating a nuclear power plant, but also ways to dispose of nuclear wastes and to convince people that nuclear power generation is good for the country in the long run, he said.

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Pizza-celebration!

By Riza T. Olchondra

WITH PIZZA ASSOCIATED with "bonding" and "celebrations" by the premium 20-something market, the idea of "fast casual dining" has emerged.

Greenwich Pizza Corp. said that according to its latest survey, upwardly mobile 20-something with money to burn like having pizza.

Not alone, of course, but with family or friends.

And to lure this market segment, the pizza chain tried a new concept called "fast casual dining." The comfort factor is a notch above fast Jollibee, but faster than your usual bistro.

The flagship store in Ayala Avenue, which opened last Aug. 6, is located right smack in the heart of Makati's Central Business

District. It is franchised to young businessmen by the Jolibee fast food group of Tony Tan Caktiong.

Annabelle Narciso, regional business unit head 1, lead MM and Rizal. "Based on research by corporate marketing, pizza is a bonding food. We said we have to have conducive environment for bonding and celebrations. This is the first fast casual dining concept store."

"The franchisees are young professionals Cyrus Acla, John Michael Ganpan, and Al-Ian Ng.

"We belong to the target market, so that's an advantage for us. We know what this market wants," Ganpan said.

To lure the young worker crowd, the concept store had a cozy setting that is very similar to a coffee shop, complete with upholstered booth seats, magazines to read, a wide selection of desserts, and tea and coffee flowing all day.

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Skillful marketing key to business success

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

ASK ANY PERSON DRIVEN BY AMBITION and he aspires to have his own business. No doubt his desire is fired by the inspirational stories of successful entrepreneurs and business owners.

When asked what the secrets to success of these icons are, many venture to say, Hard work, perseverance, luck, a good product and even divine intervention.

Very few cite skillful marketing in growing and sustaining a business as key to success. Yet marketing is recognized as the business process meant to create demand for products and services.

Myths, truths

Most business owners view marketing as an unnecessary expense. Not too many see it as a means to generate business. Or a guarantee to protecting one's ground in the future when more players come in, sleeping competitors wake up or when a brand crisis strikes.

Here are some myths associated with marketing:

- Marketing communications, often associated with advertising, can be deferred or done away with as long as the products and services are massively available in trade.

The truth is, without investments in awareness-building marketing activities, it may take time for end-users to know the product or service exists and in many cases, they may not know it at all.

Time is very precious these days. Fewer consumers have the time to shop around. Thus, it is to the advantage of the product or service when consumers are informed of its benefits even before they reach the trade area.

Having a wide distribution has its advantage and tremendous costs in the form of listing fees and/or retail margins. But manufacturers and service providers must realize that while listing fees and substantial trade margins are part of marketing

expense, these are meant to guarantee a space in the retailers' shelves and not the customers' mind space.

- As long as the product or service sells, there is no real need to fortify with image-building and sustaining marketing activities.

Not true. Marketing aims to optimize and sustain the brand for generations to come. What a business owner must assess is what segment of the universe of the potential market one wishes to serve and for how long will the market be served.

- Having good advertising is enough to compel consumers to buy a product.

Not true. Successful marketing is the sum of complementary marketing activities that include having a good product, right pricing, wide distribution and awareness programs that reach the intended market with a unique, differentiated and compelling benefit.

Not one of the marketing mix can be disassociated from the rest and not one can singularly claim as the reason for the success of any product or service.

Marketing is like a spoke to a wheel and vice versa. Having great advertising copy that stimulates demand is a plus to getting the product and the brand name into the consciousness of the target market much faster.

This means that the advertising copy must do what a foot salesman is unlikely to accomplish—be a salesperson simultaneously to thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of targeted people for every commercial exposure be it on print, outdoor or broadcast media.

- Being on the trade shelf is a guarantee of a product's movement.

Not always true. Here comes the special relationship of trade accounts and marketing people with retailers.

The trade marketing people must make sure that the branch or area manager, category-in-charge, customer service people are aware of the product's existence on the shelf.

A call to the customer service counter or

a query with the floor sales attendant can be a lost sales opportunity if the response is in the negative when in fact the product has been sitting on the shelf.

- Customer feedback is often negative.

Not true. If the customer is satisfied with the product or service delivery, then positive feedback comes unsolicited.

On the other hand, if the product or service meets a need, but potential customers were disheartened during the sales process, they are likely to provide constructive feedback that will enable the provider to deliver the product or service in a better way.

Franchisees need not do marketing. If you are a franchisee, demand that the franchisor engage in substantial and effective marketing. After all, a percentage of the franchise fees go to marketing expense.

But this does not prevent the franchisee to engage in incremental marketing activities at local store level, with the permission of the franchisor, to create demand for one's own store. The same principle applies to malls and their tenants. Malls must help create the right foot traffic for its tenants.

Tenants, on the other hand, can engage in additional marketing activities that will ensure that foot traffic that goes into the mall also leads into the tenant's shop.

- Business owners can chart and do the marketing themselves.

True, but they need to understand what marketing and creating demand for products and services entails. Or they can avail themselves of expert skills. Still, they must ascertain the skill and know-how of the marketer or consultant they are getting on board. If marketing is not done well, it can be a costly and self-destructive exercise.

(The writer is author of the book "Color Folders of the Mind: A Branding Story" which deals about marketing and branding including the business issues and opportunities it addresses. Available in National Bookstore, Powerbooks and Bestsellers outlets and online at www.karendeasis.com)

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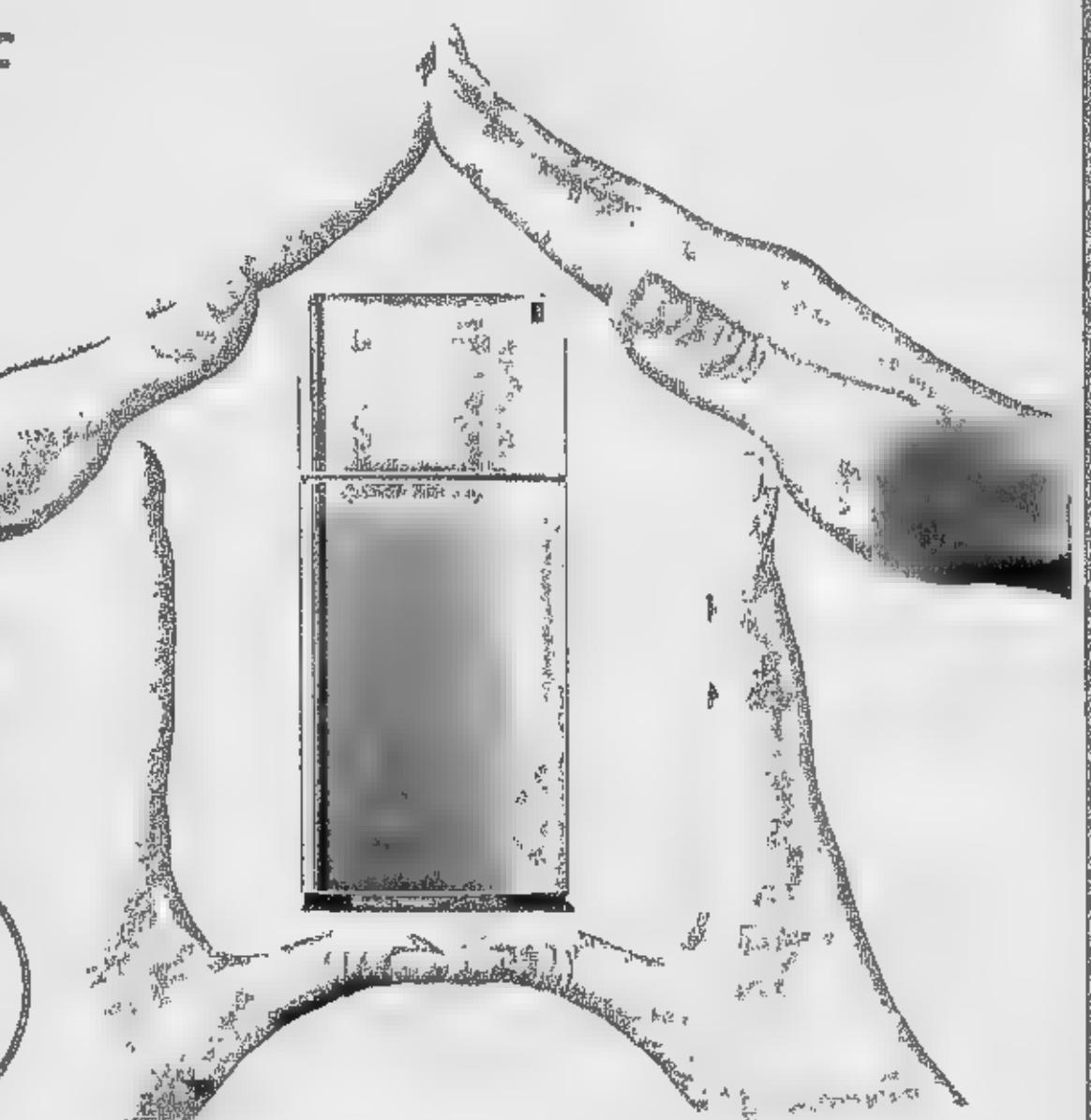
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5th PICPA-ACPACI Joint Convention



Beyond the shores

Warmest greetings to the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) and the Commerce and Industry Sector of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) as you hold your 5th Joint Convention with the theme, "Reaching Beyond Borders."

This convention emphasizes your commitment to institute financial reforms and to promote transparency and prudence in corporate and government spending. Indeed, the Philippines is facing brighter economic prospects because of your big contribution in curbing corruption and in checking wasteful and unnecessary spending.

Our national agenda is designed to move our country toward greater political stability, economic prosperity, and peace and order. Our focus now is to bring the benefits of a strong economy to every Filipino even as we put in place massive infrastructure to attract more investments, create more jobs and beat poverty. As active partners of government, I ask you to join me in our efforts to achieve a 7-to-8-percent growth rate in the next three years.

May your convention result in meaningful exchanges so that we could effectively translate sound fiscal policies into sustainable gains.

Mabuhay!

Glory Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest and most cordial greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Association of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) and the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry on the occasion of your 5th Joint Convention in Baguio City with the theme "Reaching Beyond Borders."

I truly commend PICPA and ACPACI for their efforts in advancing the cause of the accounting profession and the CPAs in the commerce and industry sector. This convention will not just serve as a venue for updating your members on the latest developments in the field of accountancy, but also a great opportunity to discuss, assess, and enhance the competency of the Filipino CPAs as they compete beyond the Philippine borders.

You have been supportive of the various programs and projects of the government. We shall continue to count on your full support of our developmental efforts. To all the officers and members of PICPA and ACPACI, our sincerest gratitude for working with us in improving the lives of your fellow Filipinos.

More power and Mabuhay!

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

It is my pleasure to send my warmest greetings to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry on the occasion of your 5th Joint Annual Convention.

It is most gratifying to note the partnership that your two organizations have forged. It is an encouraging development that demonstrates the solidarity of the certified public accountancy profession. Your theme "Reaching Beyond Borders" is evidence of the widening scope of public accountancy. At a time when our country is making great strides as an emerging economy in Asia, there is a greater need for the services, the vigilance and integrity of our CPAs.

As investment opportunities abound, it has become more important for you CPAs to contribute towards making the economic climate in our country attractive to potential investment partners both here and abroad. Investments must be seen to be secured through the work of organizations such as the PICPA and Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry.

I encourage your members to take part enthusiastically in this convention and to show your world-class caliber as Certified Public Accountants.

Mabuhay kuyong lahat!

Leonor Tripone Rosero
Chairperson
Professional Regulation Commission (PRC)



In behalf of the Board of Accountancy, I would like to convey our warmest greetings and commendations to the organizers and participants of the 5th Joint Annual Convention of the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) and the Commerce and Industry Sector of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) to be held on September 21 to 23, 2007 at the Baguio Country Club, Baguio City.

Your conference theme "Reaching Beyond Borders" is indeed very appropriate and timely. In this day and age, the world is no longer what it used to be. With the advent of the New Economy, there are higher demands for efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness. With barrier-free business and state of the art communication as pillars of globalization, the pace of the change has never been this fast. These current economic developments affecting the financial and corporate world calls for an accounting profession that is capable to respond to the needs of the times. As CPAs with a mission — that of being the business world's most trusted advisors, it becomes necessary for all of us to be professionally competent. Moreover, we must continue to pursue what is right with compassion and dedication, strong sense of morality, independence and integrity. As wave after wave of advancements come our way, we must learn to ride at the crest and not at the bottom. Mastery over modernization is the only way we could stay afloat and achieve the extraordinary. This gathering serves as a good venue for addressing such concerns.

Please accept my best wishes for a fruitful and successful convention.

Eugenio T. Mateo
Chairman
Board of Accountancy (BOA)



We pay tribute to the members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) and the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) on the occasion of their 5th Joint Annual Convention slated in the City on September 21-23, 2007.

As associations committed to uplifting the standards of their profession and to continually nurturing and building the capabilities of their members, the PICPA and ACPACI have successfully carved their niches in the field of service to humanity.

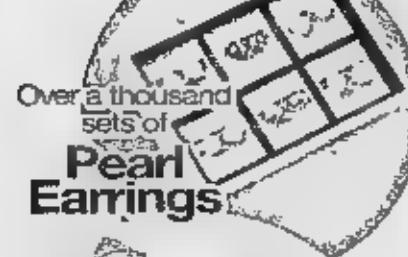
May this gathering work to strengthen PICPA's and ACPACI's aspirations, enhance their work standards and foster camaraderie and unity within their ranks.

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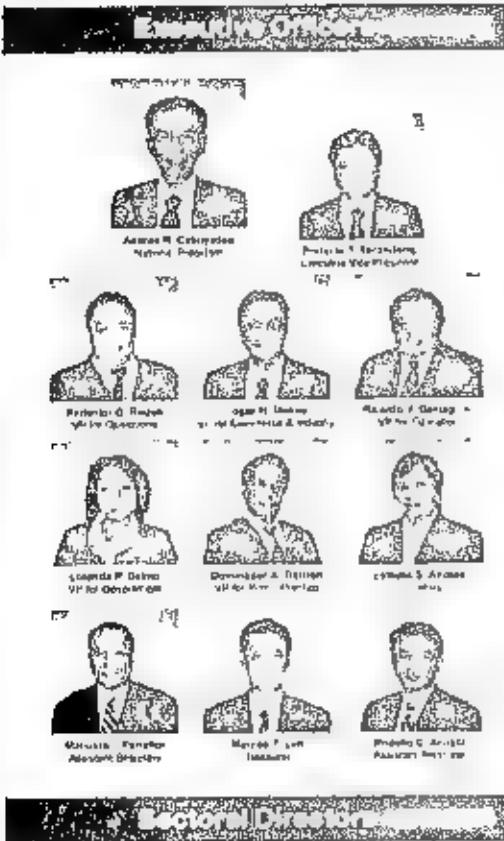
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2007-2008 National Board of Directors



Board of Directors



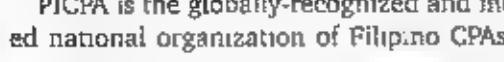
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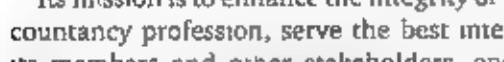
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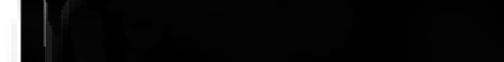
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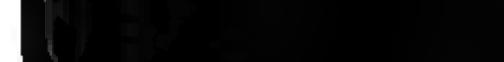
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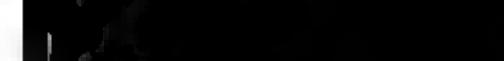
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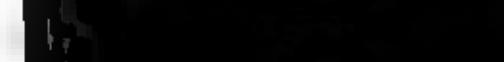
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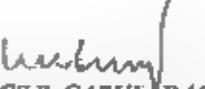
In behalf of the officers and directors of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), I would like to convey my warmest greetings to the participants and guests of our 5th Joint Annual Convention.

Our theme, *Reaching Beyond Borders*, truly manifests the continuing thrust of our professional organizations to propel the CPAs to greater heights and broader environment beyond the national shores with more valuable services to offer. This calls for leaders to develop and implement programs aimed at enhancing your competencies, expanding your services and strengthening your values for there is a real need for all of us, CPAs, to get out of our comfort zones and explore other avenues of service that will benefit our publics.

Our three-day convention, thus, focuses on the discussion and resolution of relevant issues affecting us and our profession, the new challenges and demands of the ever changing business environment, as well as the opportunities that we need to seize to make us and our profession valuable components of the economic value chain.

I would like to commend the Convention Committee and the officers and members of ACPCI for their support and active participation in making this year's affair a success. Take this opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of your peers and widen your alliance with fellow CPAs from all parts of the country.

Mabuhay!


ANDRES R. CABUY, DAO
2007-2008 PICPA National President

About PICPA

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC Accountants, nationally known as PICPA, is the accredited professional organization of CPAs in the country. The Institute was organized to enhance the practice of accountancy in the Philippines and to protect the integrity of the CPA certificate. Membership in the PICPA is restricted to registered CPAs.

The Institute is now composed of 9 regions, 89 local and 14 International chapters. PICPA is an active member of the ASEAN Federation of Accountants (AFA), International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), and the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA).

The Institute was founded in November 1929 by a group of illustrious pioneers in the accounting profession: Enrique Cagunit, Santiago dela Cruz, Francisco Dujuan, Jaime Hernandez, Felipe Ollada, Ramon del Rosario, Antonio Sanchez, Jose Torres, Artemio Tuho, Clemente Uson and Jesus Zulueta. The group set forth the following objectives:

To promote and maintain high professional and ethical standards among accountants.

To advance the science of accounting.

To develop and improve accountancy education.

To encourage cordial relations among accountants, and

To protect the Certificate of the Certified Public Accountant granted by the Republic of the Philippines.

William W. Larkin, holder of CPA Certificate No. 1, became the First President of the Institute in 1929. It was during Larkin's time that the Constitution and by-laws was created and drafted. The organization was then known as the Philippine Institute of Accountants. In 1964 during the presidency of Arsenio D. Narciso, the institute's old name was restored from Philippine Institute of Accountants to PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

PICPA Mission & Vision

implementation of professional ethics, promotion of high standards of accounting education, and advocacy of and participation in relevant national issues.

Vision

"To be strong, dynamic and unified professional organization of highly-respected, world-class and socially-committed certified public accountants worthy of esteem of the Filipino people."

Core values

PICPA adheres to the highest ideals of professionalism and commitment to service and up-

holds the values of:

- INTEGRITY We advocate the TRUTH and conduct ourselves at all times with honesty, uprightness and adherence to sound moral principles, thereby gaining the respect of the public.

- PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE - We are committed to render excellent professional service to every member and to the profession.

- INNOVATION We seek and apply new ideas to improve performance. We continuously promote creativity, flexibility and resourcefulness amidst constant change.

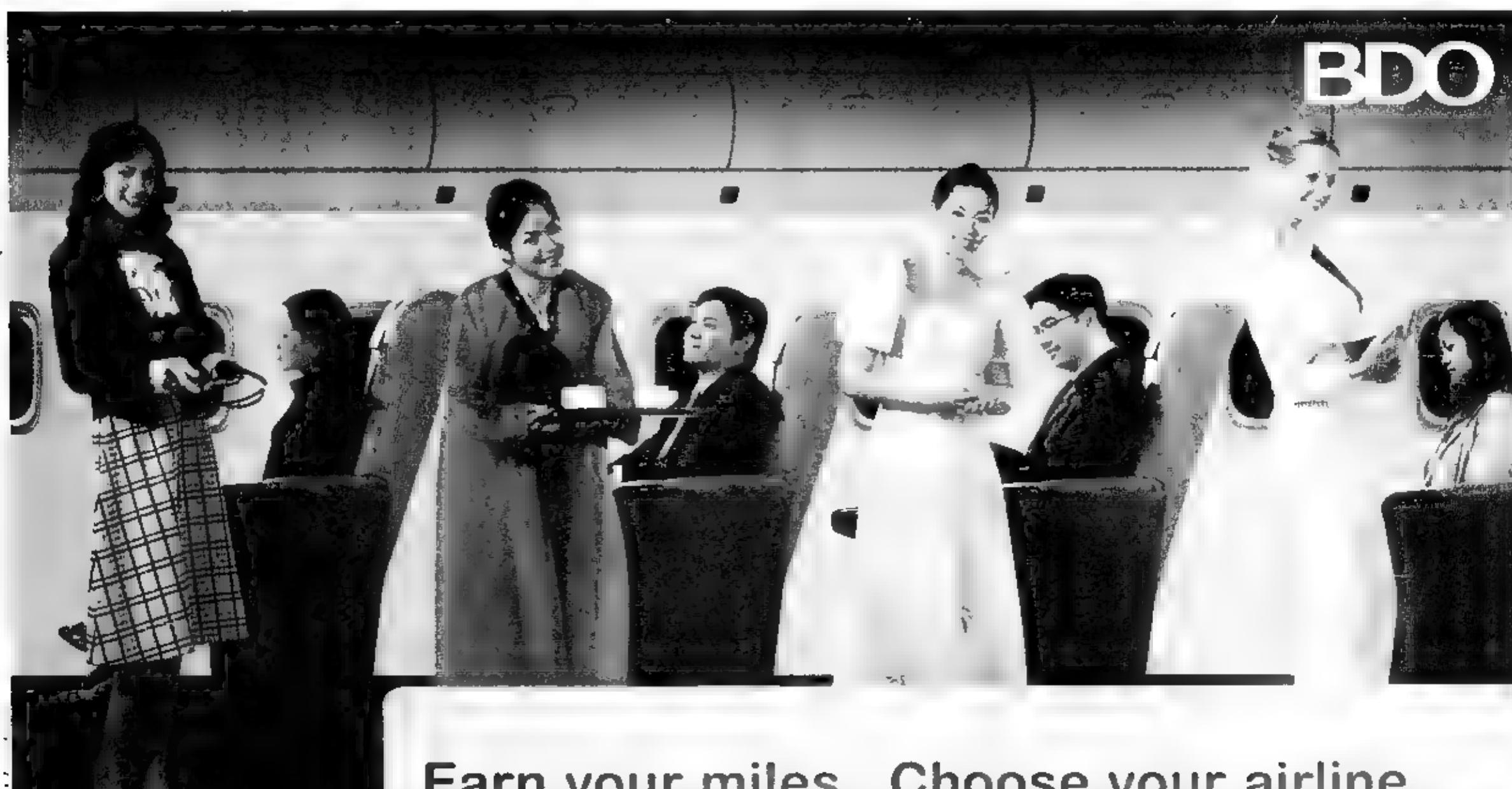
- DISCIPLINE We strictly adhere to the code

of professional conduct promulgated by the Institute while promoting the highest spiritual, moral and ethical standards

- TEAMWORK - We uphold a strong bond of unity, working in the spirit of harmony and commonality.

- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY We commit ourselves to a strong, active and devoted sense of duty to society.

- COMMITMENT We bind ourselves to uphold these ideals to ensure the accomplishment of PICPA's Mission and attainment of PICPA's Vision.



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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2007

Reaching Beyond Borders
Is a call to assess our capabilities, competencies and the services that we offer as we all gear up for the global business environment which introduced and continues to introduce new business models and concepts that redefine the practice of our profession. It is likewise a call to elevate our capabilities and competencies to global standards, and broaden our services to meet the demands of our clients here and abroad.

The opportunities are already abound in the local arena but there are more and maybe boundless that await us beyond our borders. All we need to know is how to seize them. However the question is how ready are we in meeting the demands and surmounting the challenges that go with it? Are we ready to compete in the globe? And are we ready to get out of our comfort zones and explore other avenues of service that will make us more valuable to our public?

This is the focus of our 5th Joint PICPA-ACPACI Convention here in Baguio City. Our technical sessions will dwell on the discussion of the urgent and important national and global issues affecting us CPAs, and the latest developments in our profession, as well. Our fellowship and sports activities will certainly give us another opportunity to build new friendships, have fun and share experiences with our colleagues in the commerce and industry sector.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry, I thank all the delegates, guests and our distinguished guest speakers for joining us in this momentous event. I also would like to thank the working committee for organizing and managing this convention, and PICPA for co-hosting this affair.

Maranang Salamat at Mabuhay!

ESTELITA C. AGUIRRE
President
Association of CPAs in Commerce & Industry
(ACPACI)

About ACPACI

Profile

In March 1973, fifteen (15) individuals sought to create an institutional forum focused in the pursuit of common professional interest to public accountants. To address a common goal, they established the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) with the founding members as the first set of directors and officers. Through the years, membership increased to about two hundred and seventy four (274) committed members composed of Comptrollers, Finance Officers and other executives affiliated with top corporations. Today, ACPACI has become a truly cohesive group of professionals in the Commerce and Industry sector sworn to provide quality financial and related services directed at attaining effective business decisions. It now maintains active participation with other sectoral organizations in the accounting profession - the Association of CPAs in Public Practice (ACPAP), the Government Association of CPAs (GACP) - the Association of CPAs in Education (ACPAB) - and is a dynamic member of the national organization of CPAs, the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

ACPACI seeks to upgrade the professional development of the CPAs in the sector. In addition, it aims to:

- Promote advancement of the accounting profession in the field of commerce and industry through research, seminars, discussions and dynamic exchange of knowledge amongst its members.
- Assist members in addressing common problems in accounting, information systems, business finance, administration and management;
- Promote high professionalism and adherence to established ethical standards in the performance of services and responsibilities;
- Maintain effective liaison with the members of other sectoral organizations;
- Assist and cooperate with the Board of Accountancy in the attainment of its objectives.

Participative membership

ACPACI is a dynamic organization that keeps abreast with national developments taken from the active participation and cooperation of its members. The monthly membership meetings sustain the Association's affairs and closer interaction to address and take a stand on relevant issues.

Where learning experience takes place

ACPACI is an institution that builds experience and creates an environment of learning and fellowship. The annual convention provides a broader venue for interaction and refreshes exchange of ideas on major developments in national and economic issues. It features international, local and local topics presented by experts and knowledgeable speakers. It also serves as a forum to make a firm stand on national and social issues through resolutions and position papers as approved by its members.

Continuing professional education program

ACPACI provides a good avenue for the continuing professional education of its members through a series of seminars and lectures.

Social development and nation building

The Association undertakes social development projects in addition to the livelihood projects conducted to promote productivity and self-reliance for target beneficiaries. Through these projects, the Association recognizes the greater task ahead of us. Fulfillment of these responsibilities include pooling of our individual talents and resources towards the attainment of national growth and development.

2007-2008 ACPACI Committee Officers

President Estelita C. Aguirre	Executive Vice President Noza D. Aquino	VP-Operations Shirley F. Carter	VP-Marketing Miria Teodoro-Josephine C. Martinez	VP-Membership Annah Amella O. Siames
Secretary Gracelia A. Guillen	Treasurer Cynthia A. Campes	Assistant Director, Events & Programs Romeo J. Bernalde	Assistant Director, Research with PICPA Por Bola Marinas P. Maranon	Assistant Director, Audit Committee Ma. Ulpalia L. Lantada
Assistant Director, Rehabilitation Kimberly K. Chua	Assistant Director, Board Development Edith L. Christine	Assistant Director, Communications Carolyn S. Yu	Assistant Director, External Affairs & Sports Benedicto O. Consalacion	Assistant Director, Financial Planning Aida R. Apolinario
Assistant Director, Markets Leopoldo A. Salvador	Assistant Director, Law & Audit Ricardo G. Ding	Assistant Director, F&I Affairs Ian S. Babilio	Executive Director, PICPA Wilhelmina B. Valdez	Assistant Director, Public Relations Flora Bola Marinas A. Maranon
Assistant Director, M&A Juliana M. Torson	Assistant Director, Publications Kimberly S. Yu	Assistant Director, Public Relations Carolyn S. Yu	Assistant Director, Rehabilitation Kimberly K. Chua	Assistant Director, Sports Benedicto O. Consalacion

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Travel must be completed by September 30, 2007.

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The promotional leisure fares are PHP188 one-way or PHP376 round-trip per person for Economy Class travel, and apply to any domestic route operated by Philippine Airlines.

Travel must be completed between June 10 - October 15, 2007.

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See flyers and posters for details.

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Programme at a glance

TIME	DAY 1 (September 21 - Friday)	DAY 2 (September 22 - Saturday)	DAY 3 (September 23 - Sunday)	1:30 PM	OPENING PLENARY SESSION "Reaching Beyond Borders"
5:00 AM	DEPARTURE FROM MANILA OF BUS Assembly place: SM City North Edsa, Parking Area			11:30 AM	LUNCH Baguio Country Club
7:00 AM		BREAKFAST Baguio Country Club	BREAKFAST Baguio Country Club	3:00 PM	TECHNICAL SESSION 1 Topic: <i>The Filipino Businessman Going Beyond Borders</i>
8:00 AM					Speaker Hon. Juan Miguel Zubiri Senator Republic of the Philippines
10:30 AM	REGISTRATION Baguio Country Club				TECHNICAL SESSION 2 Topic: <i>PFRS vs Tax - Significant Differences</i>
					Speakers Atty. Alexander B. Cabrera Managing Partner Tax Services, Isla Lipana & Co Mr. Roderick M. Danao Assurance Partner Isla Lipana & Co
			DEPARTURE FROM BAGUIO OF BUSES	5:00 PM	Free Time / Bowling Tournament
				7:00 PM	FELLOWSHIP / DINNER Theme: Hit na Jacket Guests: Pinoy Pop Superstars

LUNCHEON MEETING
Topic: *The Filipino Artist: Going
Beyond Borders*
Speaker
Ms. Wilma V. Galvante
SVP for Entertainment TV, GMA 7

TECHNICAL SESSION 3
Panel Discussion: *The Filipino
CPAs: Going Beyond Borders*
Moderator
Hon. Oscar M. Orbes
Former Governor, Pangasinan
Speakers:
Hon. Eugene T. Mateo
Hon. John S. Baia
Hon. Eduardo B. de Guia

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

Anticipated Mass at Baguio
Country Club

FELLOWSHIP / DINNER / DANCE
Theme: Star of the Night
Guest: Sugar Pops

My warmest greetings to
the members of the Philippine
Institute of CPAs (PICPA) and
the Association of CPAs in
Commerce and Industry (AC-
PACI), as well as to the dele-
gates and guests of the 5th
Joint PICPA-ACPACI Con-
vention here in Baguio City.

With the theme, *Reaching Beyond Borders*,
our three-day convention will be filled with
technical sessions with the objectives of updating
us on the latest developments in our profes-
sion, prepare us for the greater demands of our
various publics, and help us transform the chal-
lenges of the global environment into enormous
business opportunities. We have also lined up
activities that will give us a great time for fun,
networking and to enjoy everything that Baguio
can offer.

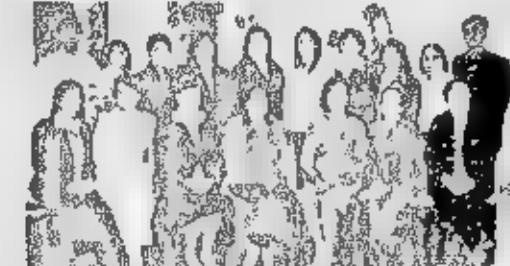
On behalf of the officers of PICPA and AC-
PACI, and the members of the Convention Com-
mittee, I welcome you to this convention. I
would also like to thank you all for your unceas-
ing support and enthusiasm for this significant
meeting of CPAs in the commerce and industry
sector. To all our guests and speakers, our deep-
est gratitude for gracing this event and for shar-
ing your valuable time and expertise. Your par-
ticipation will indeed spell the success of this
convention.

Thank you and God Bless us all!

Ma. Ophelia L. Camina
MA. OPHELIA L. CAMINA
Chairperson
5th Joint PICPA-ACPACI Convention



ACPACI Induction Ceremonies

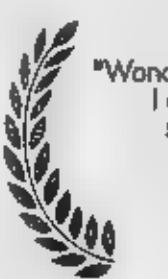


The Convention Committee at work

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberlin-Sadhwani

It's fun-tastic!

CLOCKWISE:
Paul Smith Women. REUTERS
Matthew Williamson. APP

Put a smile into London fashion

LONDON—LONDON FASHION WEEK HAS always been a showcase for the weird and wacky, but Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson suggested it should also learn to have a laugh.

"It's all about bringing the smile back into fashion," Thompson told Reuters TV on the red carpet at the headline event of the fourth day of the fashion fest, the gala opening of an exhibition of haute couture. "If you've got a posh frock on you've got to smile. When I've seen pictures of fashion week all the models look so miserable. Not their fault, but they all look a bit like they're in a bit of a sulk."

Thompson, who is one of Britain's best-known actresses and has starred in the "Harry Potter" movies, joined other stars of stage and screen, socialites and business tycoons for the launch of "The Golden Age of Couture: Paris and London 1947-1957."

Kate Moss and Quentin Tarantino, designer John Galliano and musician Prince were among those gathered at London's Victoria & Albert Museum for a fundraising event which charged £10,000 (\$20,000) for a table of 10.

The exhibition, which runs from Sept. 22 to Jan. 6, 2008, shows more than 100 dresses dating from the launch of Christian Dior's New Look in Paris in 1947 until the designer's death in 1957, by which time the great couture houses had become global brands.

The couture gowns worn by the event's female guests—many long and beaded in pale, creamy hues—attested to that opulence and contrasted sharply with runway shows where "geek chic" starred.

Models at Paul Smith, one of Britain's bigger brands with an annual turnover of almost \$400 million, sported stripes galore with loose jackets and long, baggy skirts and shirts with some tied at the neck in a large bow.

While none of the models looked particularly cheery, they did boast one feature Thompson might enjoy—chunky round spectacles perfect for "Harry Potter".

Reuters



Happy Wintour
Editor in chief of American Vogue Anna Wintour visits backstage before the Jonathan Saunders Spring/Summer 2008 collection show during London Fashion Week. REUTERS

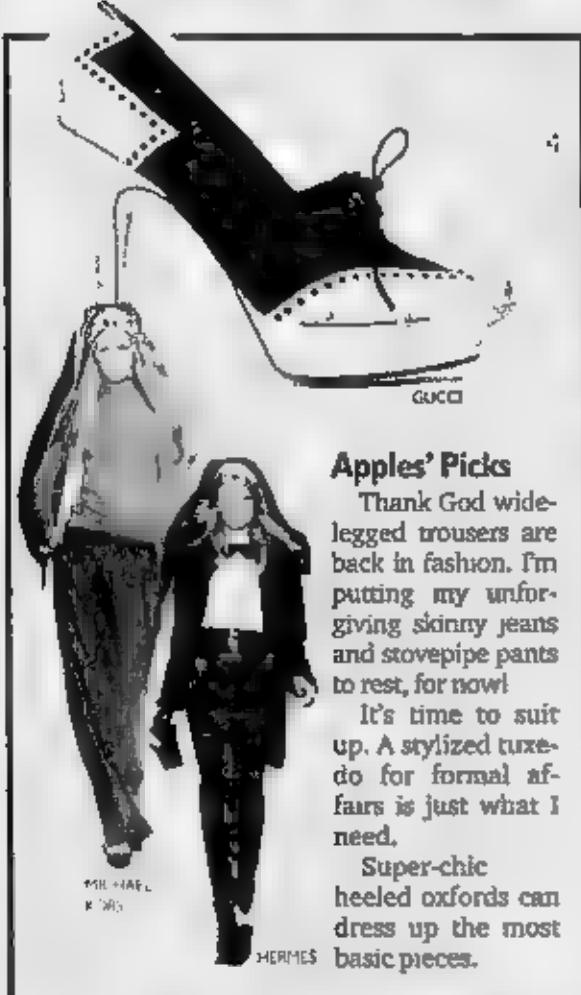
EXCLUSIVE STORES

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GLORIETTA 4, AYALA CENTER
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Must-haves for new fashion season



Apples' Picks

Thank God wide-legged trousers are back in fashion. I'm putting my unforgiving skinny jeans and stovepipe pants to rest, for now!

It's time to suit up. A stylized tuxedo for formal affairs is just what I need.

Super-chic heeled oxfords can dress up the most basic pieces.



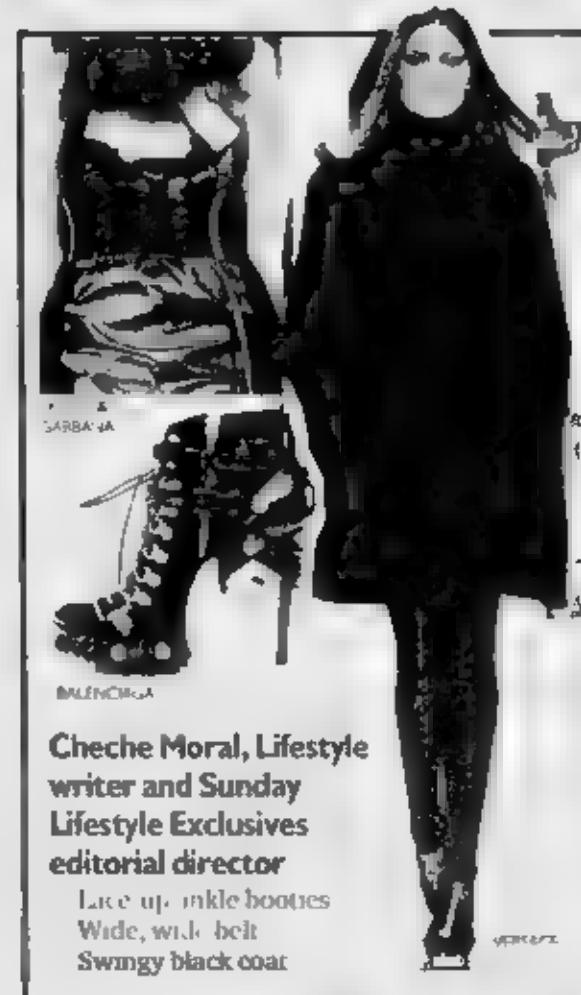
Jenni Epperson, INQUIRER Fashion columnist and contributing editor

I'm obsessed with Michael Kors' platform shoes. I love the sky-high heels and buttery-soft leather.

Any of Marc Jacobs' bags. There are too many to list down!

I'm hoarding Ivar Aseron's entire collection from Folded & Hung!

(For more on the latest in fashion and shopping, check out www.jenniepperson.com)



Cheche Moral, Lifestyle writer and Sunday Lifestyle Exclusives editorial director

Lace up, ankle boots
Wide, wide belt
Swingy black coat



Millet Arzaga, INQUIRER Fashion stylist

A pair of black ankle boots
Wide waist cinchers
A well-tailored pantsuit



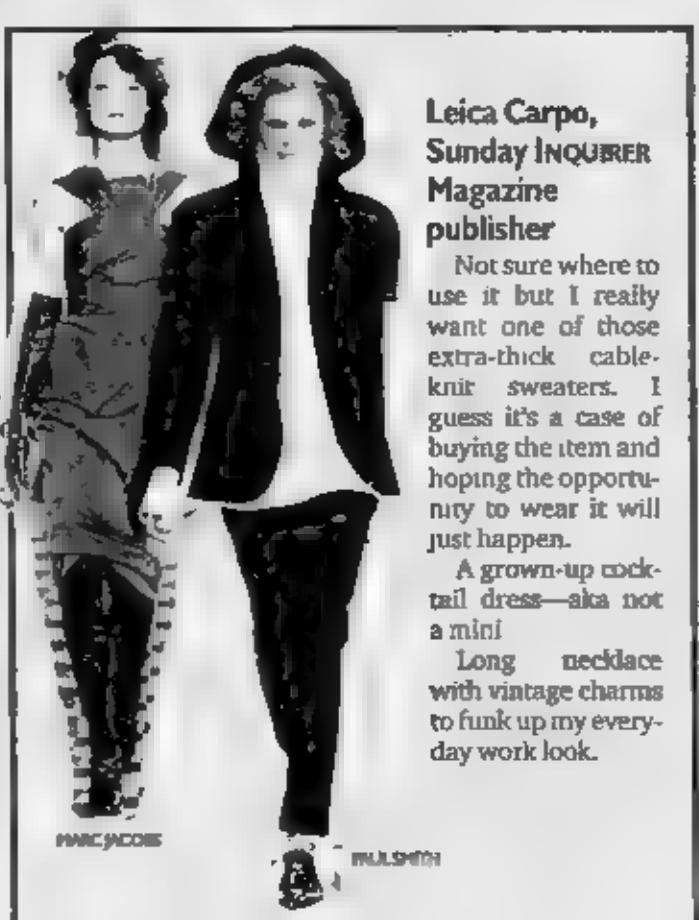
Pam Pastor, Saturday Super editor

This season, I intend to purchase: More Sugar boots—I can't get enough of them. They're colorful, fun and really comfortable.

A nice jacket—I have too many pink jackets, it's scary. I need a nice one in a neutral color.

Dresses—I need them for my double life: I wear dresses for my band's gigs.

(Pam is the vocalist for the band Moosie. Catch the band in Club Dredd for Top Junk's anniversary on Sept. 26 and at the Pearl Farm, Davao, in October.)



Leica Carpo, Sunday INQUIRER Magazine publisher

Not sure where to use it but I really want one of those extra-thick cable-knit sweaters. I guess it's a case of buying the item and hoping the opportunity to wear it will just happen.

A grown-up cocktail dress—aka not a mini

Long necklace with vintage charms to funk up my everyday work look.



Bianca Consumi, INQUIRER Fashion and 2bU! stylist and contributing writer

I'm in Germany for a few weeks and it's autumn here so I'll update my wardrobe with the following:

Flat suede boots
A wool trench coat
A colorful scarf



Tals Diaz, Saturday Super editor

A little white dress with jeans

A giant red rose

Flamenco dancers to find anywhere here

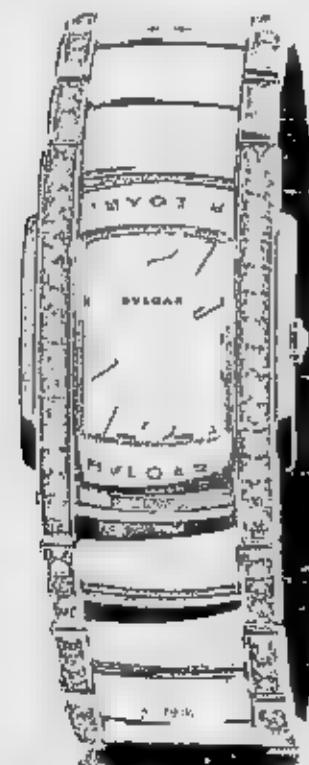
A skinny flair pantsuit from my new line

When time is really gold

Bulgari offers a new line of women's luxury timepieces



MULTIMILLION-PESO beauty in rose gold



SEMI-STUDDED diamond watch with a rose-cut diamond crown

By Alex Y. Vergara

DESPITE THE PREVALENCE these days of all sorts of clocks and watches incorporated in almost anything—from cell phones to iPods, from laptops to dashboards—the demand for timepieces, particularly of the luxury variety, won't be slowing down anytime soon.

If the well-heeled crowd's enthusiasm for expensive watches at Bulgari's latest dinner party at the Peninsula Manila's Old Manila restaurant is any indication, the luxury business is alive and well in this supposedly developing country.

Mario Katigbak, general manager of Bulgari in the Philippines, used the occasion to launch the Assioma D, an 18-piece collection of women's luxury timepieces made either of yellow, white or rose gold.

True to Bulgari's tradition of offering only the best for its upscale market, the quality of the watches' gold isn't lower than 18 karats. A number of models come with a hint of pave diamonds, while a certain piece is encrusted all over with the precious stone—from its delicate face to its narrow bracelet. Each piece comes with a rose-cut diamond set in the crown.

"It really depends on your economic status. I don't think demand for high-end watches will ever go down," said Katigbak. "A beautiful, finely crafted watch like the Assioma D, for instance, has become an indispensable accessory. Not only does it complete the look, it gives an understated outfit a certain lift."

The Assioma D's launch (D, in this case, stands for diamonds, diva and donna) comes in the heels of the Italian global

brand's launch sometime last year of an earlier batch of Assioma Ds with bigger faces and wider straps.

Daintier, classier

While last year's launch also presented a number of men's watches, this year's affair was exclusively staged for the ladies. The current series is decidedly daintier, classier and (except for the eye-popping diamond-embellished number) less obtrusive.

Draped in black dresses and sometimes wearing as many as three watches on their wrists and arms, Manila's top models, including Patty Beata and Dubai-based Nicolette Bell, glided from one table to another to give guests a closer glimpse of the pricey merchandise.

While the watches were the stars of the show, a few jewelry pieces that sparkled on Bell and

company's earlobes and necks were also presented (and later snapped up on the spot by Bulgari loyalists).

"Like Bulgari's jewelry pieces, its watches are imbued with a classic and timeless quality," said Katigbak. "They're fluid, finely crafted and elegant, yet they're also practical, versatile and user-friendly. They're the kind of watches you keep and hand over to the next generation."

The line, like its predecessors, was entirely developed and crafted at the Bulgari time ateliers in Neuchatel, Switzerland. Each customized Bulgari watch is equipped with the quartz movement and is water resistant up to a depth of 30 meters.

Not that the stylish lady sporting a multimillion-peso Assioma D watch would want to swim in it. But she's certainly welcome to try.

MARINA Benipayo fits the Assioma D's market consisting of seasoned and accomplished women.



BIANCA Valero goes for thrills the fun.



DUBAI-BASED model Nicolette Bell graces the latest Bulgari show at Old Manila. RUDY ESPERAS

FROM LEFT, watch that comes in white gold as well; jaw-dropping diamond bracelet that doubles as a timepiece

amping one's wardrobe depends on one's personality. There are several women and their peculiar takes on the season



Tessa Prieto-Valdez,
Lifestyle columnist

Beaded top from House of Laurel—perfect for day and night

Jersey dresses from Religioso, Shang Mall—comfy and fashionable

Shoes from Solea, Powerplant Mall—need that added platform-high lift

My false eyelashes from Shu Uemura! (Watch Tessa in "Celebrity Duets" this Saturday, 6:30 p.m., and vote for a cause! Text: Duets Tessa, send to 367 for Smart/Talk and 2344 for Globe/Touch Mobile.)

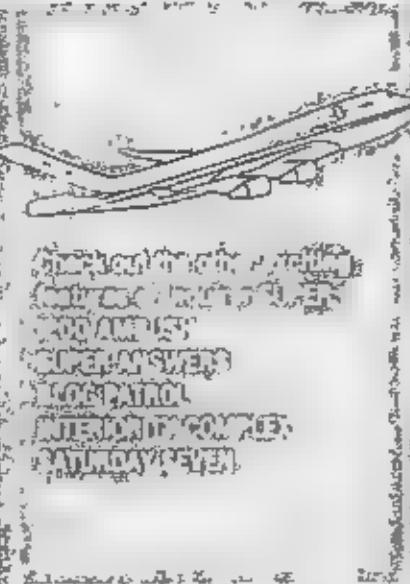
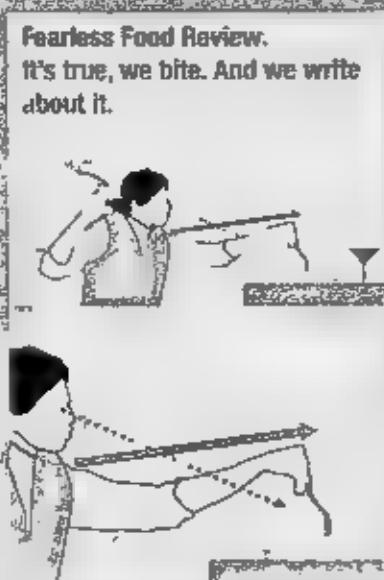


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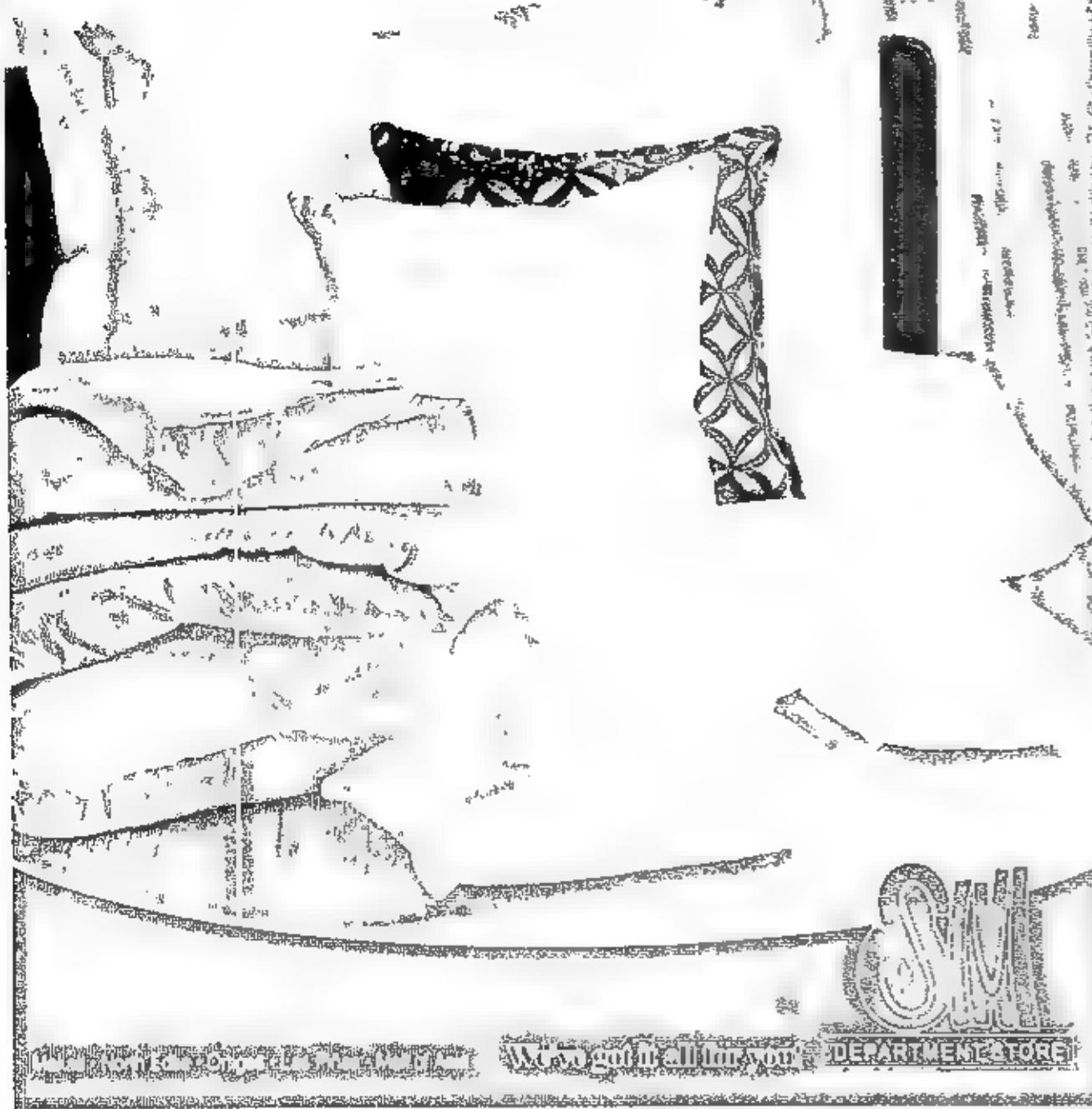


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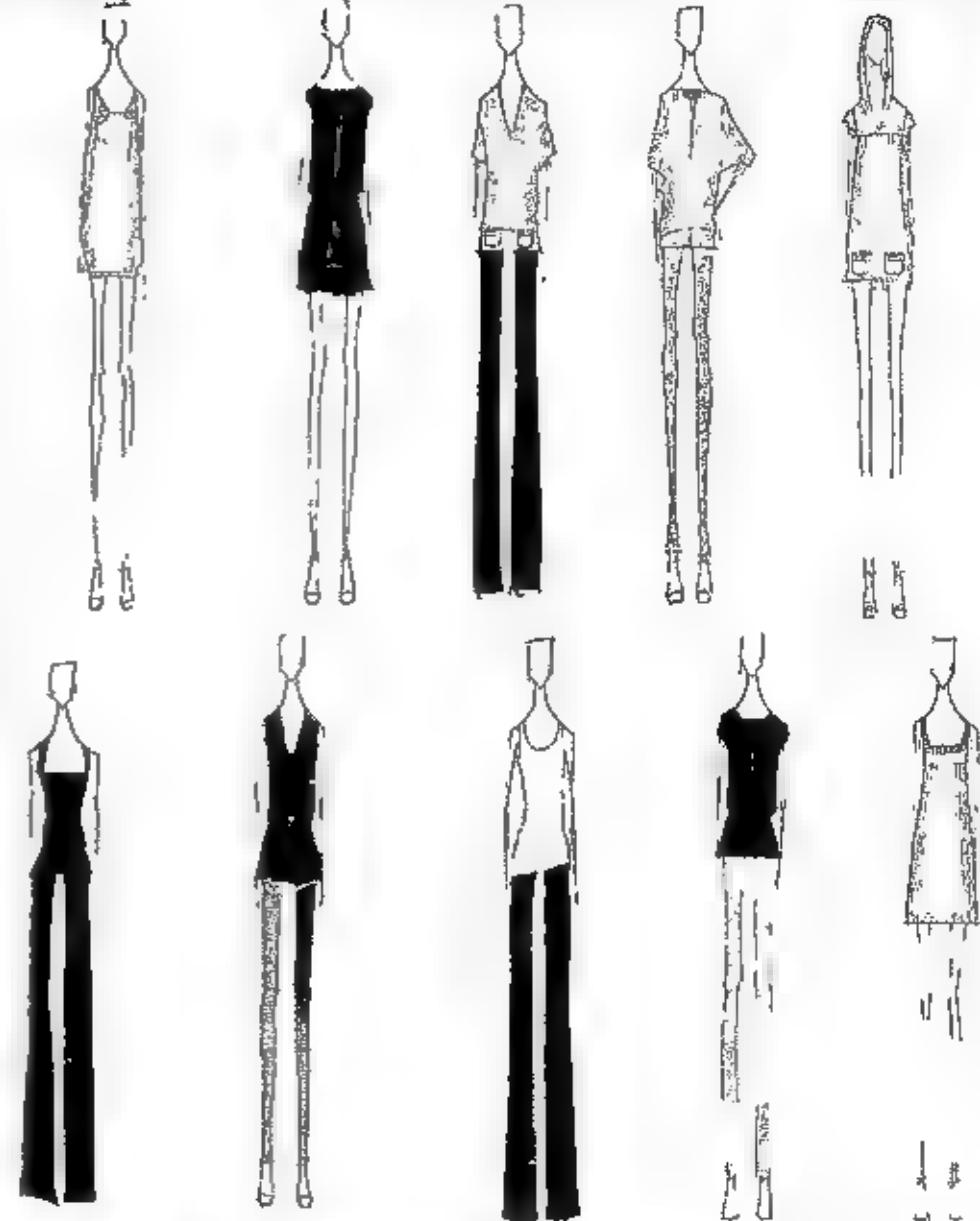
what's new

C4

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white bedding essentials
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available in the sizes you're looking for



LIFESTYLE



ASERON'S sketches
for his Folded & Hung
collection

Ivar takes two

FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR, designer Ivarlusk Aseron is collaborating with Folded & Hung for the holiday 2007 collection. Expect to be transported back in time as the line takes on a medieval theme.

Necklines, plackets and pockets are accentuated by textured black leaves of plastic gems reminiscent of the period. Silhouettes have a desirable soft volume that are cut away from the body. Interesting variations of tops in metallic jersey give a fleeting impression of armor. Pants, either slim or cut wide at the leg, come in satinized stretched twill or denim. Black is a major palette of the col-

lection along with other bright tones of magenta, mustard, dove gray and teal. The entire collection is still very feminine and sexy but at the same time modern with a casual gorgeous, fresh look.

According to Aseron, when he designed the collection, he visualized the typical F&H woman who's fashionable, confident, sexy yet practical. He wanted the clothes to be more versatile and relaxed that anyone who buys the collection can mix and match with any of their existing pieces.

Watch out for Ivar Aseron's new inspirations this coming November at Folded & Hung stores.

FASHION BUZZ

Hot, haute, hot news!

**Non-stop
ang action.**

Dahil sa sarap ng light wafers wrapped in chocolate, 'di mo talaga tiligilan ang Hello!

Hello! lang nang Hello!

FASHION EXCLUSIVE

New face for young fashion staple

If there is one star that is shining
the brightest of all in our
celebritysphere, it is KC Concepcion

JUST WATCHING HER WALK into a room, you know that she was born under an "it" constellation. She immediately illuminates a place with her mere presence. And it goes way beyond simply having designer genes.

KC has proven time and again to have come into her own with her firebrand passion, artistry, intelligence and strong character, all of which complement her striking looks perfectly.

KC symbolizes the ideal in today's era when we are in dire need of depth behind the pomp and circumstance of glam and image. She is proof that a role model can have both style and substance.

And this is what makes her the perfect choice as the new, fresh face of Bayo.

KC is the progressive Filipino fashion label's anointed one. She upholds Bayo's tradition of fronting world-class Filipinas like Lea Salonga to represent the brand. KC now joins the ranks of Bayo's Filipino-and-proud family.

What's admirable about Bayo is it has always showcased exemplary and beautiful Filipinas. Bayo has redefined the global Pinay!

Vibrant and young KC will be showing different aspects of her personality in sporting Bayo's latest merchandise mix, tagged as the Trendy, Classic and Young collections.

It is like having different women with different personas in the store. That's because KC is known to be a chameleon in expressing her style. She is adventurous with her fashion moods. One day, she can be her young and fun-loving self, then a chic Parisian fashionista the next, then transform again into a classic preppy.

KC always weaves her own style and perspective into what she wears. In fact, while working with her and Mark Nicdao for the Bayo shoot, I notice that she gives a fresh perspective even to the more conservative pieces because of her inner coquettishness and innate style. With some creative styling and layering, the overall look becomes alive and unique.

The Trendy and Young lines of Bayo will be offering a holiday collection that promises to spice up the year-end season wardrobe.

For the Young collection, expect Japanese street wear-inspired tees, statement tees, star printed hoodies and pinafores, and graphic-printed sleeveless tunic tees. Also look out for oversized blouses and long tops in a variety of colors. You can get playful with baby-doll silhouettes with colorful graphics.

For Bayo's Trendy line that caters to young, working women, expect classic tailored pieces like shirt dresses, wide-leg pants and tailored shorts. Details include ruching and ruffles on tops accessorized with fabric belt.

Also look out for stripes and exciting prints in an array of colors. By the holiday season, expect feminine touches like bubble, lantern and puff sleeves, with fabric combinations like satin or lace and rayon. Tweed fabric and coats make for a winter-wonderland style—even if it's just indoor chill from air-conditioning.

Just like all the products she endorses, KC made sure she studied and got to know Bayo on a deeper level to see what it was all about before she gave her nod. In fact, she wanted to know how Bayo helped out on a national level—how it helped the less fortunate. It is yet another dimension of KC, as someone with a big heart to give, to make sure that what she endorses share her similar passions.

Her enduring charm and warmth was so apparent during Bayo's production shoot. KC will be officially launched as Bayo's new endorser on Oct. 25 with a fashion show at the Glorietta Activity Center, culminating with a grand fashion event.

Watch out for KC soon as the celebrity style chameleon. Is there anything that she can't do? Her star can only shine brighter.

E-mail the author at ifashion@inquirer.com.ph

Mabuhay!



Jenni
Epperson



HOT and spicy

Photography Mark Nicdao of Wildbunch
Styling Jenni Epperson
Hair and makeup Juan Sarte
Clothes and accessories Bayo



THE GRADUATE



GRAY'S anatomy



SPORTACULAR!

WHAT KIND OF

usually go for?

I'm usually a girl, but these do sexy but laid-back things down color or only three colors with interesting (like Mod.)

What's your f

I like wearing and gray. Low-cut with cuts that she

Describe what

Shopping day aviator sunglasses black skinny jeans

Bonding days with stressed dewy makeup eye liner

Family time

Formal occasions designers. And worn sparingly

Fashionista eve and going out overdoing things romantic feel it means

Staying at home dresses and stuff

What's your l

My Cart or watch

What's in yo bag?

Pink Shea I Cleansing Oil; Srox O Goo for cheeks, Virgin coconut Oil with M

Whose style influences your dr

Gwen Stef, Katherine Heburn

What are you latest clothing must-haves?

Anya Hindmarch "I'm Not a Plastic Bag" canvas tote, Bayo Cotton Shirt Dresses (Almost like you wanna sleep in it! But perfect for barkada bash!)

How do you put an outfit together?

I have no rules

Why do you dressing up?

'Cause I like b

What made decide to end Bayo?

It's easy to swear that q, as twice about the lots of fun, love understands he body.

If there is w piece?

The white, shirt It's so sexi, feck as a style can, fortress chic. So

KC talks about and shares her experience that she claims into a strong Filipina. Th

STYLE

FASHION Q & A

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2007



F CLOTHES DO YOU

I-shirt and jeans kind of
s I like to wear heels and
x dresses. I also like com-
binations by limiting to
1, and spicing up outfit
Filipino-inspired pieces

vorite color and cut?
erald-green, violet, red
waist trousers, and tops
w my collar bones!
you wear on the follow-

Red Chloe leather-trim
s, T shirt with graphics,
and buckled flats
with girl friends' Dress
medium-size leather bag,
th rosy cheeks and black

each wear :)
ions: Dresses by Filipino
my Lola's classic jewels,

ents: I don't mind splur-
out here, but I never like
I also like to have that
events, whatever that

ame, day: Long cotton
andanas.

vorite accessory?
Santos-Dumont

ur-beauty

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BAYO is all about fun and function.

belt, classic men's watch or men's skinny tie.

What do you think of Bayo as a brand?
I respect and admire that those at Bayo
know who they are, who wears the clothes,
and which direction to take at any given
time. They are definite about
who they cater to and what
they want to offer to them.

What are
your
favorites?

Filipino:
dish: Vegetable kare-kare
with shrimp ba-

goong!

Junk food:
Spicy tamarind

Dessert:ube

halaya!

Book/author:
I don't know
yet... still looking :)

Song: "Li-
mang Dipang
Tao" by Ryan
Cayabyab

Singer: Lea
Salonga; Joey Ay-

ala

Actor/actress:
Jodi Sta. Maria,

Piolo Pascual,

Sharon Cuneta

Movie: "Kusap-

mata" and

"Cute ng Ina

Mo!"

International-
al:

Dish: French

tossed salad

with goat cheese

PINAY panache

on toast and honey on top

Junk food: Lays Barbecue Chips

Dessert: Tiramisu

Book/author: "Eleven Minutes" by
Paulo Coelho

Song: Changes all the time :)

Singer: Ben Harper, still... Mariah Carey

Actor/actress: Audrey Tautou, Johnny

Depp, Jennifer Garner

Movie: "Moulin Rouge"; "Alias," the
series

on toast and honey on top

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FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION

Pop-up art

LUXURY ENGLISH LABEL Mulberry and acclaimed artist Julie Verhoeven have teamed up to bring an injection of feminine, colorful fun to the streets of London

London Fashion Week recently saw the official launch of a collaboration between the two as a unique Mulberry for Julie "pop-up" shop, located at 199 Westbourne Grove, makes a short-lived appearance until the close of the Frieze Art Fair on Oct. 16.

A sultry portrait and thorny rose illustration is transposed onto a range of premium items, from cute T-shirts to decadent voluminous silk shirt dresses. Bags, scarves and a quirky giant, ring-pull key ring complete a niche range of items that put a playful Verhoeven spin on some modern Mulberry classics.



MULBERRY bag by Julie Verhoeven

Rugged chic

"MANNEQUINS COME TO LIFE," the second in a series of Oxygen fashion shows, was recently held at its flagship store in Ayala Tri-Noma

Led by celebrity endorsers Derek Ramsay and Karel Marquez, models took to the runway to debut Oxygen's newest line of hip gimmick wear: the Low Riders collection. A fusion of the post-punk aesthetic of late 1970s New York and the rock 'n' roll vibe of the 1950s, the Low Riders collection comprises several trendy lines.

The Western Fusion line has plaids and stripes in earth colors with mock layering and yoke detailing. The Dream Factory line,



FASHION breathes Oxygen.

with hooded tees and new silhouettes with shirring, ruffles and pin-tucked details, came with edgy mailman's bags and accessories.

The Futurists line, meanwhile, offered silver foil-print wings jazzing up basic tees and tanks, while touches of shine gleamed on cuts with metallic pants, satin trims, lurex thread accents and oversized grommets.

Indeed, the event showcased fresh and updated silhouettes that go well with any Oxygen Blueprint jeans.



LIFE *STYLE*

Manly indulgences

By Adrian Carlo Velasco
 Contributor

EVEN BEFORE WORKING FOR the Dunhill brand, Tim King was already its loyal patron. In fact, he still remembers the first time he purchased a Dunhill item. "After 20 years, I still have that formal leather belt I bought," he says.

Today, King is managing director for North Asia and travel retail at R. Chermont Luxury Asia Pacific Ltd., which owns Dunhill.

"I like that I'm working for products that I use," he adds. He takes pride in the classic elegance the luxury label maintains in men's wear, leather goods, writing instruments and other accessories. But, he adds, what makes Dunhill more interesting for the man of today is the label's contemporary takes on iconic styles.

Founded by Alfred Dunhill from out of his father's saddlery and at first focused only on car enhancement goods, the UK brand currently offers over 3,500 items of luxury clothing and accessories in more than 20 stores, including new emporiums at Namsu Dori in Tokyo, on 5th Avenue in New York and the recently renovated flagship on Jermyn Street, London.

In Makati, the Dunhill concept store at Rustan's, appeals to today's stylish men with its sleek interiors. The store houses ready-to-wear and leather goods that keep Dunhill's tradition in craftsmanship alive.

For the urban Manileño, Dunhill has unveiled an impressive jeans collection for the first time. The jeans, which go well with a suit jacket, are made of authentic Japanese selvedge denim.

Leather country

"Leather is popular among Filipinos," King says as he displays a messenger bag with a distinctive striped strap, a new arrival that is part of the latest CT collection.



DARK Indigo straight leg selvedge denim jeans



SENTRYMAN COLLECTION. Limited-edition fountain pen with Swarovski crystal fabric and diamonds, and Diamond Pattern platinum plated cufflinks

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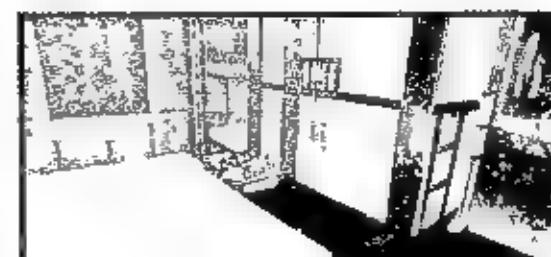
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MALU Gamboa and Rep. Carissa Coscolluela



LONGTIME Kiehl's lovers Louie Locsin and Bobby Cuenca



CRISTINA Garcia and good pal Chut Cuerva



WINNING team behind Kiehl's coming to Manila: Kiehl's Cary Co, Globe's Cynthia Mangahas, Kiehl regional manager Tina Tinio, Globe's Coco Domingo, Kiehl Phils. product manager Sheena Dy and Globe's MJ Hyndman



L'OREAL Phils.' Luc-Olivier Marquet, Nancy Castiglione, Bubbles Paraiso and handsome Asean deputy GM for L'oreal Adam Hamzah



JACKIE Cohen-Antonio and brother-in-law Jigger Antonio

Legendary US grooming brand coming to town

KIEHLS, TOGETHER WITH GLOBE, recently held the Kiehl's Coming Soon to Manila event at the Greenbelt 3 lobby.

Kiehl's will open in Greenbelt 5 next month.

In spite of the tons of rain that fell in our town, there was an awesome turnout. Everybody who was anybody came to the party, wearing red, white and blue, in keeping with the Americana theme of the affair.

The food was typically American: yummy party food like hotdogs, popcorn and the to-die-for Haagen-Dazs ice cream, mmm.

On top of learning about Kiehl's heritage, brand values and star products, guests received personalized consultations from Kiehl's rah! rah! team.

Spotted orchestrating the event were regional manager Tina Tinio, Kiehl's Philippines team of Sheena Dy and Cary Co, and Globe team of Coco Domingo and Cynthia Mangahas.

Seen enjoying the night were Shu Uemura's Tessa Dragon, Mary Ann Tinio, Louie Locsin, Rep. Carissa Coscolluela, Leica Carpo, Malu Gamboa of the excellent Cirkulo, plus loads of others of the usual partying pack.

Watch out, Manila! Kiehl's is coming to Manila, at last!

Egypt gig

It was a glorious walk through ancient exotic Egypt, dahlings, when the Egyptian Embassy celebrated the 55th anniversary of the National Day of Egypt, with an awesome exhibit of Egyptian history at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza. The showcase was a journey in sights, sounds and divine tastes across Egyptian civilization.

The bilateral relations between Egypt and the Philippines are among the longest since both countries commemorated 60 years of diplomatic ties in November 2006. The embassy jetted in replicas of the deities of ancient Egypt, palanggas.

The newly appointed Egyptian ambassador Salwa Moufid Kamel Magarius welcomed tons of invitees to the Grand Plaza ballroom, which had been made up to echo the ancient temples of Upper Egypt.

Projected on giant screens were pyramids of Giza; Egyptian antiques; and various facets of Egyptian art, culture and

tourism, such as the fantastic Nile cruises, which I had done a couple of years ago. There were also images of the fabulous opera Aida and the cityscape of bustling Cairo.

One felt being transported to ancient times as one watched images of the goddess Isis, god Osiris, god Horus, the Cat Goddess, the gold mask of the King Tutankhamun, the full-body statue of King Tut, goddess Selket, the gilded bust of Queen Nefertiti and the unfinished head of Queen Nefertiti, no less.

A feast for pharaohs was set amid the hotel's lush palm trees, which made the whole setup seem like an oasis in the Nile River. An array of exquisite Egyptian delicacies alongside a global fusion of various cuisine was prepared by the superb international culinary team of Sofitel Philippine Plaza. Authentic Egyptian ingredients were flown in especially for the Arabian dishes.

Diplomats, Egyptian nationals and our town's business hotshots were absolutely delighted after sampling the Egyptian cuisine, which they drowned in excellent French wine and capped with luscious Egyptian pastries of Baklava and Om-ali, palanggas.

Après the fantastic dinner, Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin offered a toast of the bubbly to the Egyptian envoy. Needless to say, palanggas, it was totally an awesome feeling that night walking through Egypt's best attractions, however vicariously.

French fries, er, ties

The Republics of the Philippines and France celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations recently, dahlings.

The Treaty of Amity forging the diplomatic relations between the two countries was signed by Vice President Elpidio Quirino and French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault on June 26, 1947, in Paris.

Giving a brief history of Philippine-French relations, French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel emphasized that "when Ferdinand Magellan's expedition reached the Philippines in 1521, 18 of his crew were French. Some of them were called Petit Jean, Jean de France, Master Jacques (a chief gunner) and Simon de la Rochelle.

"Needless to say, all the 18 French sailors



INQUIRER columnist Augusto Villalon, Ateneo de Manila University international programs consultant Evelyn Soriano, French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel, Unesco Commissioner Virginia Moreno and former Sen. Leticia Shahani



FRENCH Embassy's coordinator for French studies Alix Lavaud; Ateneo's assistant to the academic vice president for international programs' Glenn de Leon; and French Press Attaché Carole Lucas



NCCA Deputy Executive Director Emilie Tiongco; Alliance Française de Manila VP Deanna Ongpin-Recto; NCCA and National Historical Institute Chair and INQUIRER columnist Ambeth Ocampo; and INQUIRER Editorial Consultant Armando Doronila



RETIRED Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, Tourism Assistant Secretary Cynthia Carrion and Beth Day Romulo



ALLIANCE Française de Manila president Bernardo Sim, Alexandra d'Abouville and European Chamber of Commerce president Hubert d'Abouville



NEWLY appointed Egyptian Ambassador Salwa Moufid Kamel Magarius (third from right); Saudi Arabian Counselor Mohammed Nabil Mohammed Ali A. Bokharee; Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mohammed Wali; Sofitel Philippine Plaza's team led by marketing director Rose Libongo, with executive assistant manager Mo Ihsan, assistant events director Cielo Ortega and PR officer Yasmine Hidalgo



SWISS Ambassador Peter Sutter and Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission Madame Irene Fluckiger, with EU Ambassador Alistair Mac Donald



SOFITEL Philippine Plaza's assistant F&B manager Quentin Renard, Austrian Trade Commissioner Walter A. Holle and BMW president Andreas Biehler



UAE Ambassador Mohammed Ebrahim Aljowaid, South Korean Ambassador Hong Jong-Ki, Pakistani Ambassador Muhammad Naem Khan and Kuwaiti Ambassador Bader Nasser Ali Al-Houti



OFFICE of Muslim Affairs' Scheherazade Arnilbangsa, Egyptian Embassy Counselor Yasser El-Shawaf, Madame Rania El Khawany and French Embassy's Patrick Launay



ALLIANCE Française director Olivier Dintinger

CANADIAN Embassy's Counselor Steven Ribeault Khara

CANADIAN Embassy's Counselor Steven Ribeault Khara



UAE Ambassador Mohammed Ebrahim Aljowaid, South Korean Ambassador Hong Jong-Ki, Pakistani Ambassador Muhammad Naem Khan and Kuwaiti Ambassador Bader Nasser Ali Al-Houti

never went back to France," the envoy said. "Meaning—they fell in love with our country, married Filipinos and stayed on." The remark brought laughter and applause from the audience that attended the symposium at Ateneo de Manila University.

Representatives from Assumption College, St. Paul de Chartres and De La Salle University recalled their institutions' French origins and contributions to education in the Philippines.

Descendants of Filipino families with French ancestry such as the Gastons, Dreyfuses, Kahns and Guerreros recounted how their French forefathers integrated with Filipinos and how their families are today.

On the other hand, famous Filipinos in France were tackled by National Historical Institute chair Ambeth Ocampo and by Mara Pardo de Tavera.

After a fun forum, a reception followed at Ambassador Chesnel's residence in posh North Forbes Park, dahlings.

LIFESTYLE

Manly . . .

From page E1

lection. The line is Dunhill's way of meeting the needs of the elegantly practical consumer.

Another highlight of the new leather set is the d-eight CT Holdall, which can accommodate a man's most valued possessions—from a laptop to paper work to his gym clothes. The bag has all the practical features, such as a removable shoulder strap, a large bag opening, a back panel for trolley attachment and asymmetric external zip pockets.

According to King, Dunhill recently launched new wallet designs that cater to the

younger crowd. Traditionally, Dunhill leather goods do not have any form of branding. The new collection, however, uses a modern version of the "d" logo.

"We have a very wide range of small leather goods. For instance, we have around four different wallets of a certain design. Dunhill's the place to go for wallets," he adds.

Opulent must-haves

It's also the best place to go for gifts. As a matter of fact, 30-percent of Dunhill shoppers are women who buy memorable items

MANLY/E4

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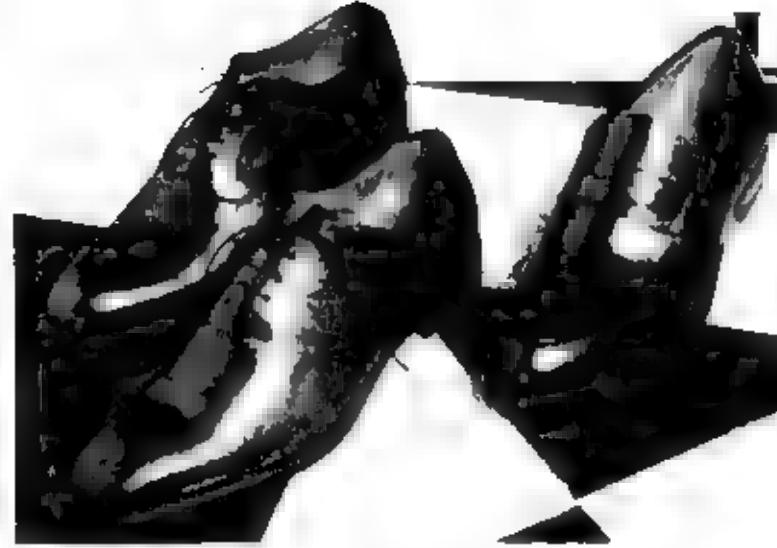
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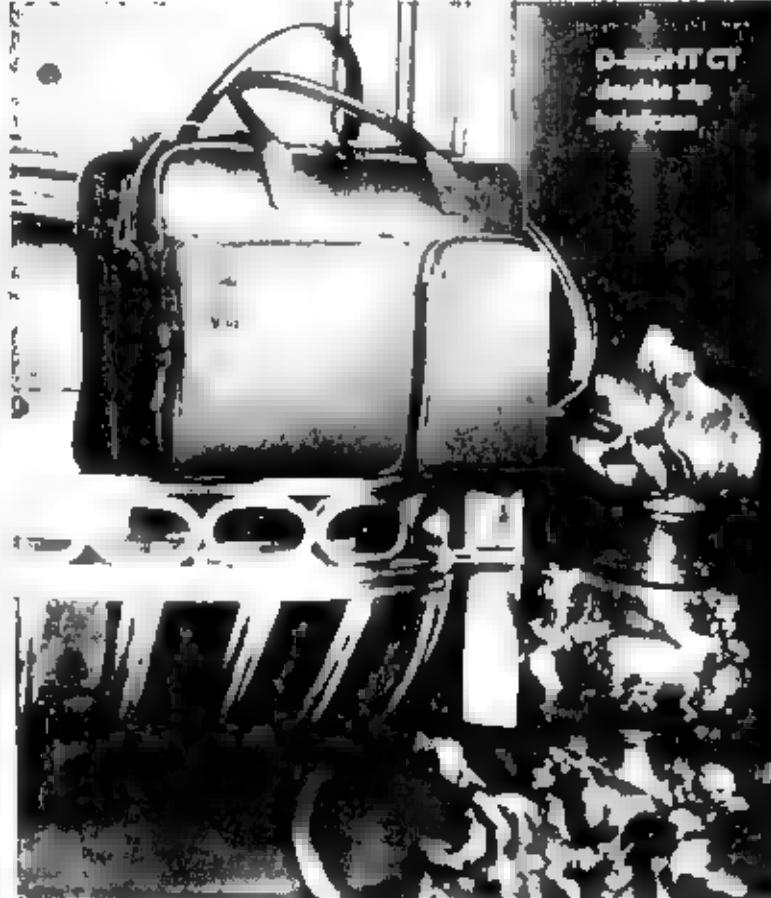
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Manly

From page E1

for men close to their hearts

The perfect present for corporate executives would have to come from the Sentryman collection—an irresistibly sleek range of accessories.

Inspired by the iconic flat tops of British pillow boxes, the Sentryman pen's cap is the highlight of the new collection that includes fountain pens, ballpoints, roller balls and pencils. The limited edition "after dark" reincarnation, on the other hand, is a pen wrapped in rare Swarovski crystal fabric with a 112-white-diamond-embossed cap.

The Sentryman line also consists of cufflinks in black resin, mother of pearl and white metal, a bifold wallet and a seven-hook key case.

Rethinking the classics

When it comes to fashion, King says, men in the Philippines tend to be pretty conservative. Fortunately, his brand complements Filipinos' classic taste.

Dunhill recently introduced the iconic St James suit with a leaner silhouette, plus two new narrow ensembles, namely Mayfair and Bespoke. Equally classic are the jackets, overcoats and outerwear appeal to the growing market of global citizens, who experience different weather and seasons.

Coming from the shirt line



MOTORIES Khaki canvas belt and Khaki Mongolian cashmere V-neck sweater



LIFESTYLE

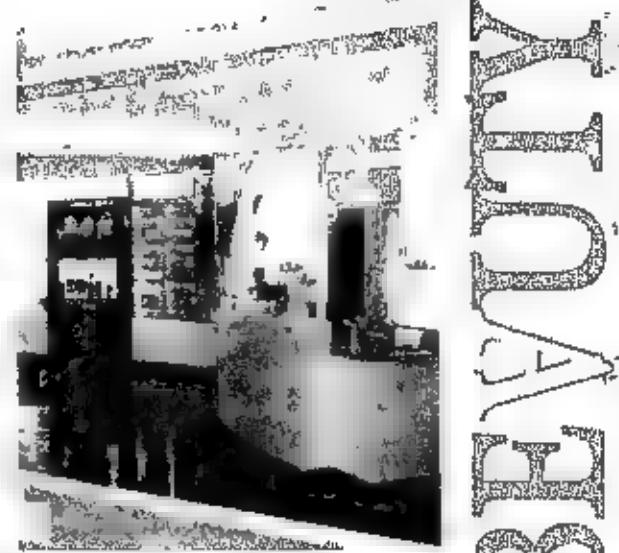
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PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARINS

Rustan's Makati has reopened its top floor, with some new additions to its old lineup of skincare spas and treatment centers

By Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Ryan Lim

THE ONLY THING MISSING IS a gym.

Rustan's has created a little beauty and wellness heaven on the fifth level of its Makati branch. After several months of renovation, the high end retail chain re-opened the store's top floor, with some new additions to its old lineup of skincare spas and treatment centers.

Heaven on the Fifth, as it is called, now houses Clarins Institut, which moved from the former U level to join old time fifth-level occupants Dermalogica and Murad.

Clarins Institut manager Andrea Dumancas says they've overhauled Clarins' menu of services to go with its new location. Facial and body treatments, for instance, are now named after the places where the ingredients are derived, say "Extreme Youth from Kyoto," "Whitening from the Alps" or "Firming from Guyana."

Clarins also continues to administer its specialized services designed for expectant moms, facials and back and scalp treatments for men, and body-firming and self-tanning treatments. It has also introduced its first full body massage, Le Massage.

Dermalogica, meanwhile, is kept busy by both men and women who favor customized treatments done via Face Mapping's zone-to-zone skin analysis.

The award winning Murad brand's treatment center has its loyal following, seeking out, among others, its anti-aging and anti-acne solutions.

Belo Medical Group's dermatology and surgical clinic is making its services available here with the opening of a center devoted to male clients, Belo for Men. There's also Island Spa and the waxing station called Brazilian Bare.

Costliest cut

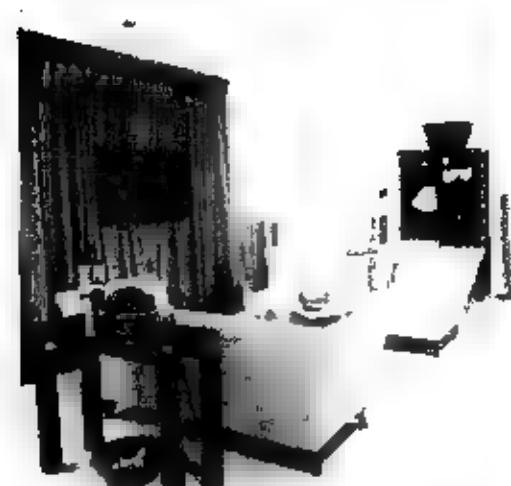
The top international haircare brand Phyto has partnered with the United States-trained hairstylist Jude Hipolito to open Univers Phyto Salon, its first concept salon outside Paris and New York.

Hipolito reputedly gives the most expensive haircut in the country (at P4,000), but his satisfied clients do not seem to mind. His creative partner is his wife, Rose Velasco, who is the salon's color specialist.

Heaven on the Fifth aims to be a well rounded service center that "nourishes the senses and stimulates the soul." Shelves upon shelves of select titles from Fully Booked now occupy the center area. Cus-



HEAVEN/F2



THE BLACK FSP Lounge, an exclusive retreat for Rustan's top-tier clients.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RUSTANS

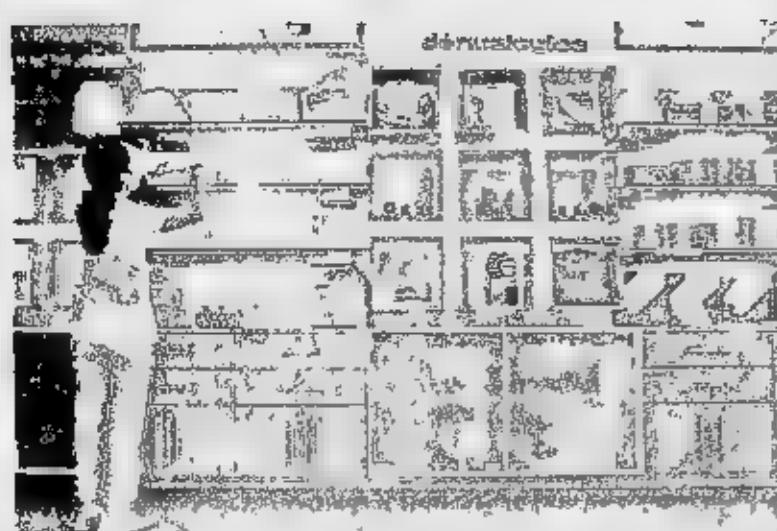
GLORIETTA IV
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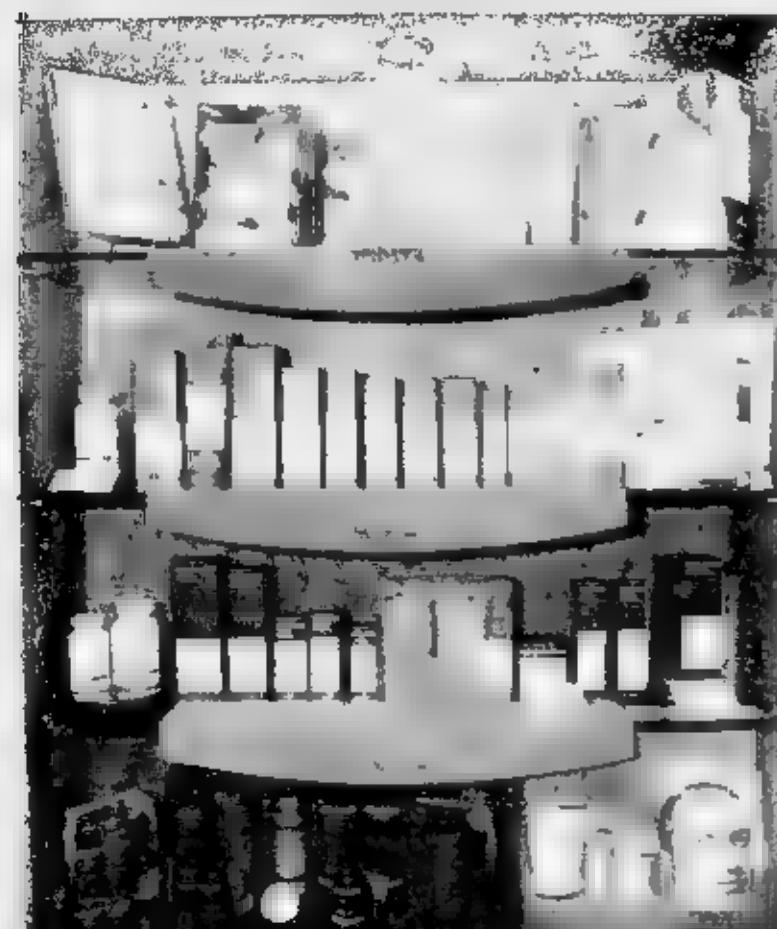


HEAVEN on the fifth floor also espouses nourishing the mind: Fully Booked sets up shop in the center with select titles and comfy couches and ottomans for reading.

Heaven is within reach



DERMALOGICA (above) and Murad (below) are two of Rustan's most popular beauty and skincare brands.



AFTER. Concealer camouflages blemishes, sunspots and under-eye circles.

From page F1

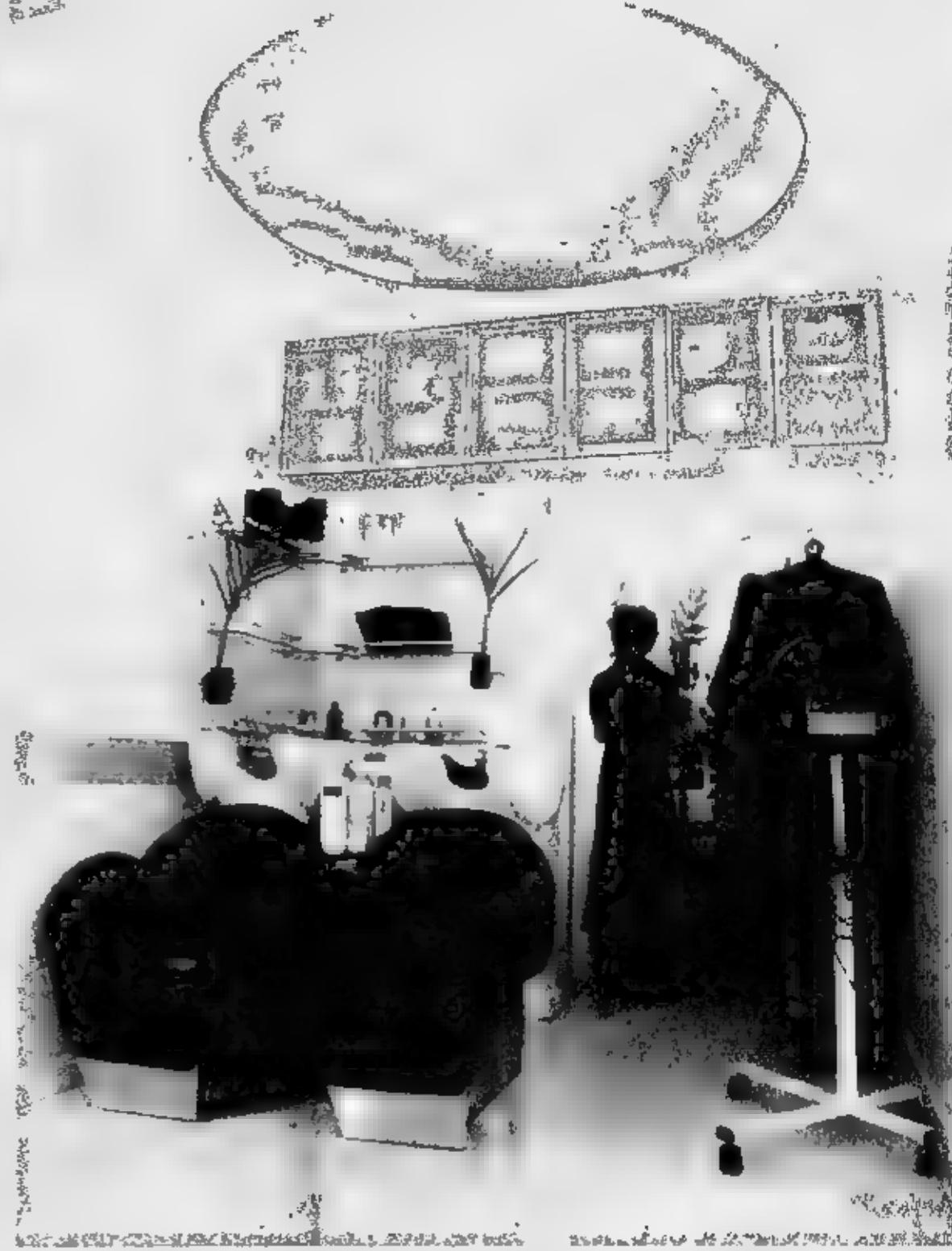
tomers can leaf through the bookshop's selection on thoughtfully setup couches.

Adjacent is the Japanese chain UCC's coffee shop.

A discreet corner of this floor opens to a private enclave reserved for Rustan's top-tier clients. The Black FSP Lounge is designed pretty much like a first-class or business-class airline lounge. The department store's top spenders get to relax or have free access to WiFi connection.

The lounge is tastefully decorated with cream-colored sofas and equipped with a plasma television. It also has a shower room (that's right, a shower room!) and several dressing rooms where clients can try on their purchases.

According to Erica Lozada, the genial young woman managing the place, only 40 individuals at present have full access to the lounge. Black FSP cardholders get free valet and parking, and have their very own Black FSP shopping bags



and gift tags. Membership is by invitation only.

Heaven on the Fifth is also home to the service center of Cartier, the home theater and

audio equipment shop Tweak Studio, and the man concierge. Osim, maker of massage chairs, has its showroom here.

THE PLUSH shampoo room of Univers Phyto Salon, where clients get their hair prepped for the most expensive haircut in the city.



FRESH brews and good eats at UCC Coffee

Perfect cover

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan
Contributor

EVER WOKE UP FEELING TIRED and looking tired? Or maybe a zit magically appearing on your face? You have two choices. One is to feel depressed and feel ugly the whole day or two, try to figure something out and not let it ruin your day.

I suppose the second option is the better option. Thank God for concealers! We all use it on occasion and no one has to feel guilty about it. It's the secret weapon of every flawless, radiant and fresh-looking woman.

The concealer is a heavier version of the foundation. If you are using concealer with a foundation, go one shade lighter than the foundation. If you're just using concealer without the foundation, make sure the concealer matches your skin tone. This can be quite tricky since the shades are far fewer than the foundation. If you choose the wrong color (if the color is too light) you'll end up attracting more attention to the area you want covered.

Or if you choose a darker color, you'll end up looking more tired. But if you get a great match, then the world is a happy place to live in (even if it's just in your head).

The concealer instantly camouflages blemishes and sunspots and eliminates redness and, of course, under-eye circles.

This will make you look well-rested and wide awake, even when you feel and look the opposite.

That's not the only magic a concealer can do. When worn on bare skin or carefully applied on top of foundation, a concealer makes your skin look so refreshed and polished that you may not need a lot of other makeup.

It is really very challenging to find the right shade and texture. Once you get it, though, it will become easier. Always remember that a little goes a long way. A smudge of concealer is already a lot. If you put a lot, it would only emphasize the problem that you are trying to hide.

Even when you're blemish-free, there are places where concealer works as a miracle. Under the eyes to cover dark circles, around the nostrils, on the outer corner of the eyes where it's often reddish. Sometimes foundation alone can take the place of the concealer.

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Remember that yellow-based tones look good on all kinds of complexion and orange-based tones blend well with dark skin. Never use a concealer with any hint of white in them. They will turn into a dirty shade of gray as the day progresses. Also do not forget to apply loose powder after putting your concealer. This will set the concealer and minimize the creases that normally appear under the eye area.

blend and really light but gives full coverage, too. I don't think I can live without it!

• Stick—Offers medium coverage in a creamy finish. This is perfect for spider veins, acne scars. The problem with stick concealer sometimes is the cakiness. Mature skin will have a hard time with stick concealer because it could emphasize the lines around the eye area. Do not forget to prep the eye area with an eye cream to hydrate it before applying the concealer. Estee Lauder's stick concealers are very handy and easy to use.

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E-mail author at bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com



BEFORE applying concealer



AFTER. Concealer camouflages blemishes, sunspots and under-eye circles.

Nature's skincare secrets bared

STRESS, POLLUTANTS AND THE hot tropical weather in the Philippines are some of the factors that affect your skin.

Lackluster complexion and dull skin can be relieved by the naturopathic skincare regimen of The Natural Source.

Naturopathic skincare gives to your skin exactly what it needs and allows it to absorb just the right quantity of product to help balance your skin.

Naturopathic products combine simple and complex plant-active ingredients to deliver special formulas that suit well the skin and the overall human system.

The result is skin that is fast to heal and renew itself and has the ability to maintain itself and exist in a more healthy, natural condition.

Naturopathic products don't differentiate between skin types; they work to supplement individual needs and are effective for even the most sensitive of skins.

The Natural Source believes monitoring overall well-being over the long term maximizes beauty efforts.

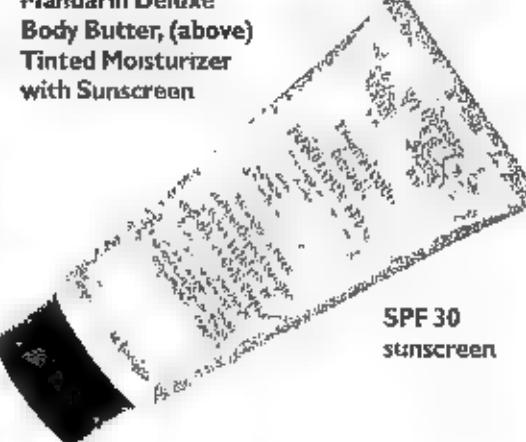
Sticking to any one product for a long time is not necessarily a good thing. You may be clogging your pores or causing rashes due to a moisturizer that is too oily for you, or drying out your skin because the conditioning agent you're using is too harsh due to its chemical components.

So be mindful of how you are in your own beauty patterns, and take care of how your hair, skin, nails and body is today.

The Natural Source's naturopath-



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TINTED MOISTURIZER
WITH SPF 30
Vanilla & Mandarin
Body Butter, (above)
Tinted Moisturizer
with Sunscreen



ic skincare products provide you with plant-active and other natural ingredients that give your skin utmost care.

The Natural Source is at Bldg. 8, Bonifacio Highstreet, Bonifacio Global City, and at 3/L, Trinoma Mall, Quezon City (tel. 8187138).



GOINGS ON

Winning works on exhibit

WINNING WORKS AND SELECTED qualifying pieces of the 2007 Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (MADE) national competition will be open to the public Sept. 22-24 at Le Pavillon in Pasay City. Led by the Metrobank Foundation, the competition hopes to raise awareness in building an identity in society and to promote the essential role of the arts. The contest is open to painters and sculptors aged 18-25 years, and young architects and interior designers 25-45 years old. Winners get P200,000 cash prize. The Winners' Forum and Awarding ceremony for the MADE Competition will also be held at Le Pavillon.

BAZAAR: The United States Embassy Club (Jsec) will kick off the holiday shopping season with its semi-annual Shoppers' Day Bazaar 9 a.m.-5 p.m. tomorrow at the World Trade Center. About 300 artisans, exemplifying the best in Filipino workmanship, will offer their goods and crafts at bargain prices. Proceeds from the bazaar, including those from the popular Shoppers' Day raffle, will fund a variety of local projects such as Project Smile (for cleft palate and lip operations), Friendship Home (for street children), Little Children's Home (orphanage), Shiphrah Birthing Center (for destitute women), Trichet Learning Center (mainstreaming for disabled children) and Little Sisters of the Assumption (sisters' area programs). Also included are Peace Corps projects and merit-based university scholarships (for children of US Mission staff members). Call 8345096 or e-mail jsecbazaar@gmail.com or usec_help@yahoo.com.ph.

GARDEN WORKSHOPS: Seminar-workshops on Practical Guide to Home Landscaping and Flower Arrangement for profit and leisure will be offered by Ikebana professor Seraphon S. Metilla this month at Mett's Plant Art Shop, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC. Flower Arrangement for all occasions is set Sept. 26-30, 1-6 p.m. Registration is ongoing. Those who register at least five days before the scheduled seminar will get a 10-percent discount. Call 9394593, 4352479, 0917-8321352, or e-mail mettsplants@yahoo.com.ph.

WALK FOR A CAUSE: The Ramon Magsaysay Cubao High School is calling RMCHS Class 1959-2007 to join Lakad 2007 Aay sa Kaisan, a walk for a cause Sept. 23, 5 a.m., starting at RMCHS campus. Registration fee is P200 inclusive of event T-shirt, refreshments, etc. Call Cecile Taasan at 9277425, 0917-6306032, or Esther Domingo at 9292744, 0917-8074424.

FUND-RAISING PROJECT: St. Bridget School's class of 1982 will hold its third major fund-raising project, "Stayin' Alive at 25," with a concert featuring the band Spirit of '67 tonight at 7, at Ratsky's Morato. Tickets are priced at P300. Call or text 0917-8660034, 0917-5301809 or 0918-9188309.

PROGRAM: The Japan Foundation Manila offers Nihongo Proficiency Program "Sensei no Nihongo" for Filipino Nihongo teachers. The course covers lessons 26-38 of "Minna no Nihongo" with basic practice in reading, writing and discussing about culture. Classes will be held Oct. 15-Feb. 20, 2008, 6:20-8:30 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday. Deadline for application is Sept. 27. Call 8116155-58 or fax 8116153.

JOB FAIR: The Philippine Exhibits, with the Department of Labor and Employment and Peso of Muntinlupa, will hold a job fair Sept. 29-30 at Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang. Call 8286394, 8286395, 0920-8766505 or 0927-7239798.

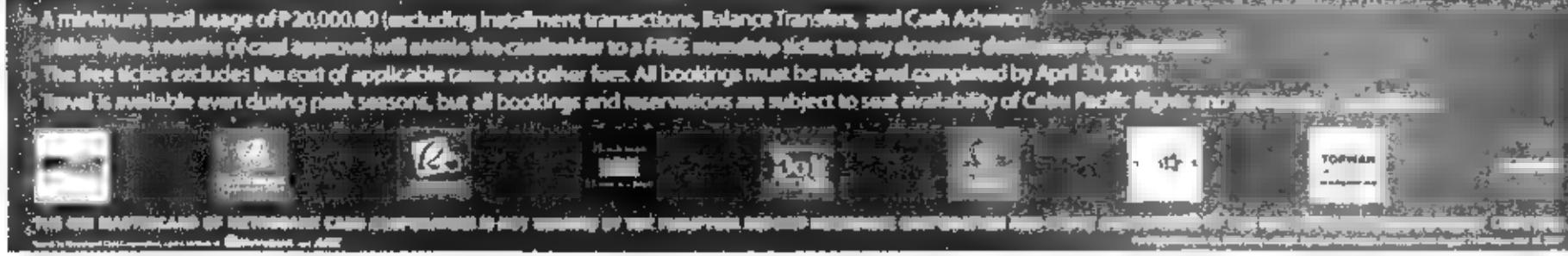
POSTER-MAKING: The deadline of entries for the nationwide poster-making contest "Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata 2007" has been extended until Sept. 27. For information, call 9240386 or 9299822 for details.

Apply now for a Go! MasterCard, shop, and fly to the most exciting Philippine destinations for free!

Start your travel adventures by applying for a Go! MasterCard. All approved applicants will get a FREE local roundtrip fare just by spending P20,000 within three months of card approval. As a bonus, use your card regularly to accumulate points which you can use to convert to more free flights from Cebu Pacific. So apply now and get going with Go! MasterCard.

* Annual fee is waived on the first year.

Call 898-7088 now!



A peek at Johnny Depp in a musical

From page G1

Venice of a Golden Lion Lifetime Achievement Award to his frequent collaborator, director Tim Burton.

For the first time, a footage of Tim's film

adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd" was shown after he received the award from Johnny himself. When the duo got off the stage and took their seats at the Palazzo del

Cinema, the gala audience was treated to the sight and sound of Johnny singing onscreen. News reports offered various running times on the footage's length, from seven to 10 minutes.

The excerpt depicted a crucial point in the Tony Award-winning operetta, when Sweeney (Johnny), a barber who was exiled by a judge so he could prey upon the wife, returns to the London apartment where he and his family used to live. Mrs. Lovett (Helena Bonham Carter), the proprietress of the meat-pie shop downstairs, recognizes Sweeney and gives back his razors which she has kept. Johnny, turning into the demon barber of Fleet Street, sings an homage to his gleaming razors titled "My Friends." Helena joins him later in the song.

The scene's look is appropriately gray and sinister—very Gothic. It ends with a zoom out from the apartment and into a London that's straight out of Charles Dickens' books.

So what did we think of Johnny warbling a tune? It was too short a film for us to make a reliable verdict. But he sounded fine on that brief footage. Earlier, on the lawn of the famed Cipriani Hotel, before we all boarded boats for the awarding at Lido, Tim told us, "I knew Johnny was in a band. I knew he was musical. I know him well enough that he would say, 'I can't do it' if he thought he couldn't do a singing role."

The director, who also premiered a 3D version of his 1993 "The Nightmare Before Christmas," said about Sacha Baron Cohen's ("Borat") try-out as a rival barber: "He virtually sang the entire songbook of 'Fiddler on the Roof' which he had brought to the audition." Smiling, the director added, "I wish I had a camera with me during that time."

When Johnny saw Helena, who is pregnant with her second child with Tim (she is due in December), he pointed at her protruding tummy and teased, "What happened?" Helena was quick: "We kissed, remember?"



KEIRA Knightley at her press con in Toronto

RUBEN NEPALES

World-class hangover

In Toronto, we smelled alcohol on the breath of this brilliant actor. Not during an evening party but at our interview with him in the morning. No wonder the man opened a bottle of Advil and popped pills into his mouth. It must have been a world-class hangover.

Cinematic stockings

Christian Dior stockings were worn not by lead actress Keira Knightley in her romantic drama, "Atonement," but were put on the camera as a filter to evoke a golden, lustrous glow in the 1930s scenes.

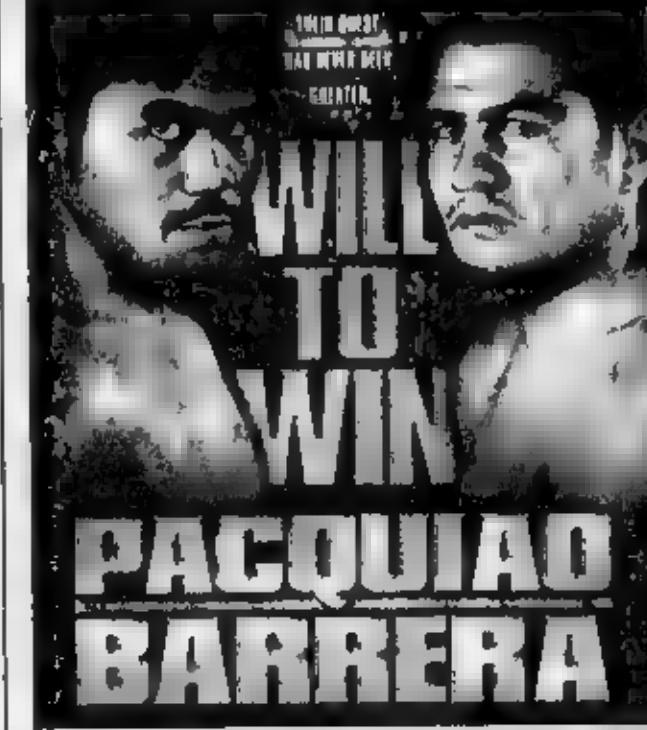
Director Joe Wright, who also directed Keira in "Pride & Prejudice," told us that he and his cinematographer, Seamus McGarvey, used not just any Dior stockings, mind you, but a certain line of hosiery the fashion house has stopped making. Apparently, someone had the foresight to buy all the remaining stocks of this

A PEEK/G4



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7 THE HOST 8 A LOVE STORY 9 RUSH HOUR 3

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13 SHOOT EM' UP 14 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 15 UNDERDOG

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TAKE FIVE

Sitti on record: I'm not yet a mom

By Marinel R. Cruz

BOSSA NOVA SINGER SITI was feeling much better when

she sat down with INQUIRER Entertainment for this interview. In fact, she was deep in rehearsals for her show at the

Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Hotel. (tonight at 9, with Ricci Chan and Aquarella as guest performers)

Sitti had to cancel her Sept. 7 gig at the same venue due to pneumonia and laryngitis brought about by fatigue and lack of sleep.

"My doctor told me not

to do it,"

Sitti said. "But now she's

feeling much better."

Sitti's last gig was a

short stint at the Stone-

House Bar in Manila.

She was in the soap series "Ysabella,"

the comedy series

"ASAP '07" on ABS-CBN.

She recently released her third album, "Sitti My Bossa Nova" (Warner)

al?

I've sung in churches because my mom is a catechist, but not at funerals, although I did sing at the wake of my uncle. I don't consider that a gig, though.

How do you take care of your voice?

I take honey. I don't talk, if I can help it.

What's your most memorable gig so far?

The one at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu during the Sinulog festival this year. It was a jam-packed back-to-back show with Nyoy Volante. When the band was introduced, the power went out. Our drummer started his solo. The crowd turned on their cell phone lights. It was so cool.

I also like performing in Baguio City where the audience appreciates bossa nova and jazz.

What's the worst place you've performed in?

An entertainment center on Roxas Boulevard. I performed to a drunken crowd, who didn't know my music. They kept shouting mean words. When things like that happen, I just continue singing.

Have you ever sung at a funeral?



HANG CINEPLEX

1 NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK and LARRY MTRCB R-13 2:00 4:40, 7:20 10:00

2 BRATZ M R-13 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

3 UNDERDOG MTRCB GP 1:30 3:30 5:30 8:00

4 SHOOT 'EM UP MTRCB R-13 12:40 3:00, 5:20 7:40 10:00

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1 THE HOST MTRCB R-13 11:00 1:55 4:45 7:05 10:25 PG 13

2 ROGUE ASSASSIN MTRCB R-13 1:15 3:35 5:30 8:00

3 SHOOT 'EM UP MTRCB R-13

4 THE BRATZ MTRCB R-13

5 CHUCK & LARRY MTRCB R-13

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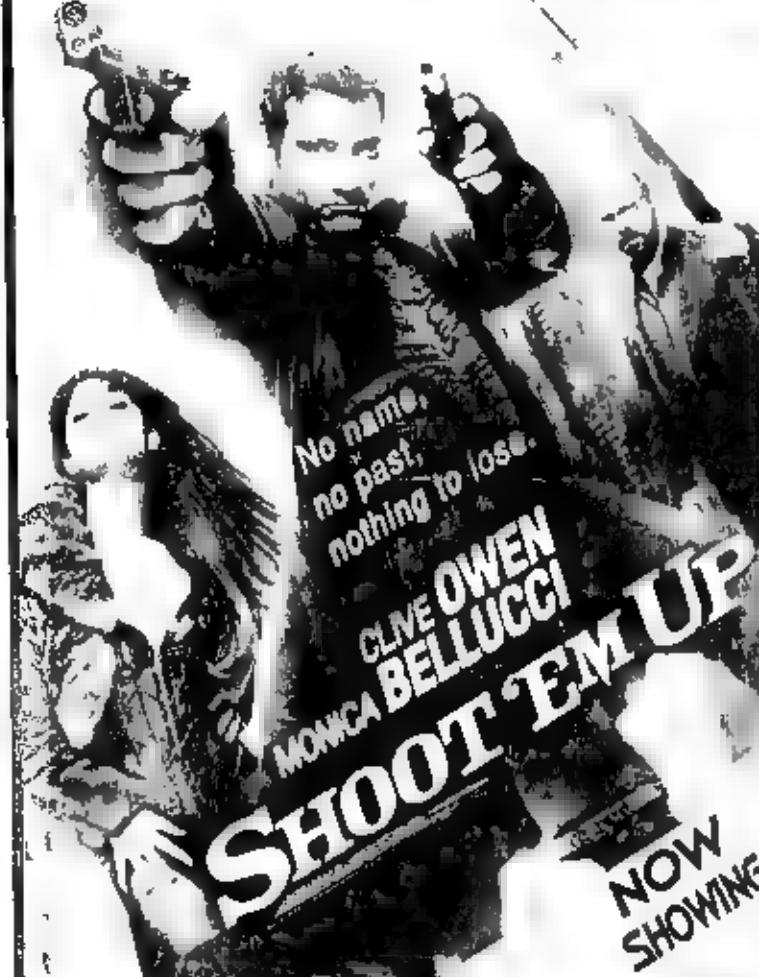
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HITS THE BULL'S EYE- Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

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- Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

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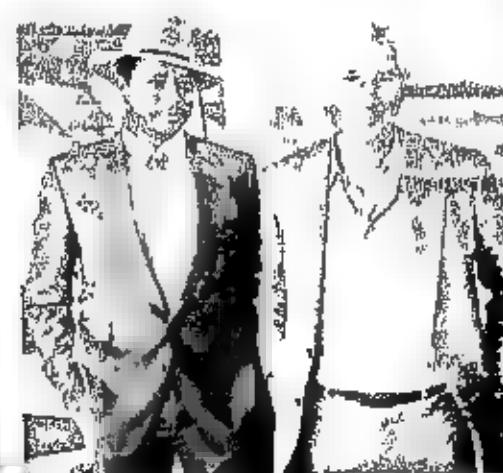
A powerful film

Bale & Rodriguez are mesmerizing

Harsh Times

VIVA NOKIA

glorietta greenbelt



WHO'S Mr GQ? Terrence Howard or Richard Gere?

RUBEN NEPALES

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A peek

From page G2

line of nylons. So this person made a kiung selling these stockings to Joe and Seamus.

Puzzling Howard

What's up with Ewan McGregor's outdated punk hairstyle these days? We didn't get a chance to ask Ewan in Venice about the puzzling cut of his mane. Is it for a role or is he just being nostalgic?

Fashion forward

Terrence Howard looked so dapper when he showed up for our chat, also in Venice, that he made his "The Hunting Party" co-star: Richard Gere appear like a fashion slouch. That's saying a lot because Richard is Mr. GQ personified, especially during his "American Gigolo" days.

Terrence, wearing a hat and a suit complete with a hankie on his breast pocket, and Richard play journalists in Sarajevo who are tracking down a war criminal in the dark comedy, "The Hunting Party." Their director, Richard Shepard, remembered us as "the writer from the Philippines" because we talked to him two years ago about the Manila scene (actually shot in Mexico) in Pierce Brosnan's "The Matador."

Later, in Toronto, where Terrence flew to after Venice, as did most of the stars, he also showed up sharply dressed, again with a hat and a hankie on his breast pocket. The man is a peacock. Did we say he's also a darn good actor? He holds his own against Jodie Foster in "The Brave One."

Amusing discoveries

At the Venice Film Fest's press room, being cooped up daily with journalists who were typing away on laptops offered amusing discoveries.

Italy challenged when it comes to computers. We saw some writers behaving like helpless babies, summoning the press room staff for every single laptop problem or software glitch.

E-mail the columnist at 5585@ya.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport



LIVING Stars

ams feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

DIANA ZUBIRI

MY "ENCANTADIA" FRIENDS SUNSHINE Dizon, Iza Calzado and Karylle gave me the inspirational book "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne on my birthday last April. It's very beautiful. I learned a lot about myself from reading it. It lifts me up when I'm lonely. It's about fo-

cusing on the positive and getting rid of negative thoughts. I'll recommend it to my other friends because it'll surely help them overcome the obstacles in their lives.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

MARIEL RODRIGUEZ

"CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC" BY SOPHIE KINSELLA. She's my favorite author. We think alike. If she sees something she likes, she tells herself: "I can wear it with my like this, with my like that." I'm just like her. Sometimes, I couldn't decide whether to pick the green or blue top because they're both nice. I'm happy that I'm not alone in my troubles about shopping.

"He's Just Not That Into You: The No-Excesses Truth to Understanding Guys" by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo. All girls should have one of these. This serves as a reminder of some sort when dealing with guys. I kept saying, "Oo nga pala, ganun pala yun," when I was reading this.

Mariel R. Cruz
ROMY HOMILLADA

BOOKS



CESAR MONTANO

IN OUR REST HOME IN PANDI, BULACAN, I RAISE CHICKENS. Apart from the big Kabir chickens from Israel, I also have native poultry, which is in demand now. We also have a tilapia pond, which my kids love. We have lots of exotic birds there. Once, an eagle wandered into our farm, but we set it free. We also have cars and dogs there. I used to have a Belgian Malinois, but [my wife] Sunshine's mini pinscher tried to mate with it. Of course the Malinois got mad and killed the mini pinscher! Sunshine was upset, I sent the Malinois to our house in Las Piñas.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

PHOTO BY RIAN LIM



OPENS OCTOBER 3

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

december boys



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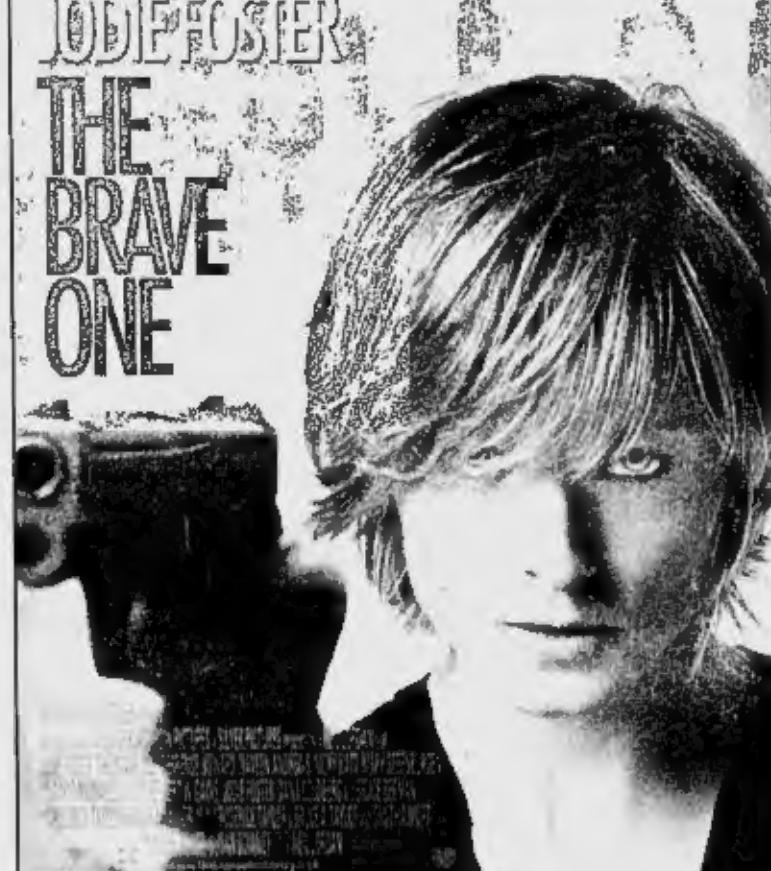
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OPENS SEPTEMBER 26

MTRCB PG ALL AGES ADMITTED



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INSIDE

Jen Rosendahl's bedroom

Favorite Nook /H2

Kian Kazemi's condo a work in progress Home Body /H4

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"Para pag natuloy ang wala, mag-enjoy sa malit at masarap na Siesta Kalm."

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GALLERIA

1 THE BRAVE ONE • THX

1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00

Ticket Price P100 / P110 / movie time 1:50 8:30-9:10

6 ROGUE ASSASSIN

12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 IndieSine: LIGAW LIHAM

1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

8 BRATZ

12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

4 SHOOT 'EM UP

12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 UNDERDOG

1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

5 ANG LALAKE SA PAROLA

12:40 2:30 4:20 6:10 8:00 9:50

10 THE HOST

12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

exclusive
screening
at Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee,
Shorts and Alain Paule

According to folktale, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entangled in a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Short (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB Rating: R18



GRADED B by the Cinema Evaluation Board

ERMITA

1 SHOOT 'EM UP

12:45 3:00 5:15 7:35 10:00

2 UNDERDOG 12:00 1:45 3:30
THE BRAVE ONE 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 THE HOST 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

4 BRATZ

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 ROGUE ASSASSIN

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

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METRO EAST

1 BRATZ

1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

5 RUSH HOUR 3

12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

3 SHOOT 'EM UP

11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

7 UNDERDOG

12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

8 THE BRAVE ONE

1:00 3:35 5:10 9:00

NOVALICHES

1 SHOOT 'EM UP

2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU

CHUCK & LARRY

3 UNDERDOG

4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

PIONEER

1 BRATZ

1:00 3:25 5:50 8:15

3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10

2 SHOOT 'EM UP

1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25

4 THE HOST

12:50 3:20 6:50 8:20

STA. ROSA

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN

2 DAYWATCH

3 DON'T LOOK BACK

4 DISTURBIA

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(049) 837-0907

Lipa

1 1408

2 SKINWALKERS

3 RUSH HOUR 3

4 UNDERDOG

DASMARINAS

1 NANCY DREW

2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

3 ROGUE ASSASSIN

4 PLANET TERROR

Ticket Price: P80 / P90
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IMUS

Ticket Price: P100
(046) 471-9166

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

2 THE BRAVE ONE

3 ROGUE ASSASSIN

4 UNDERDOG

ANGELES

1 DAYWATCH

2 THE LAST LEGION

3 NANCY DREW

4 DISTURBIA

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(045) 692-2348

TARLAC

1 THE INVASION

2 A LOVE STORY

3 1408

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 875-1927

STARMILLS

1 THE LAST LEGION

2 ROGUE ASSASSIN

3 NANCY DREW

4 DISTURBIA

Ticket Price: P70
(034) 441-0459

ILOILO

1 SKINWALKERS

2 1408

3 DISTURBIA

4 UNDERDOG

5 WAITRESS

6 THE LAST LEGION

BACOLOD

1 SKINWALKERS

2 UNDERDOG

3 THE INVASION

4 THE KING OF SCOTLAND

5 HAIRSPRAY

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2 2000 BRATZ

3 2000 SHOOT THEM UP

4 2000 ROGUE ASSASSIN

5 2000 THE BRAVE ONE

6 2000 UNDERDOG

7 2000 THE HOST

8 2000 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

9 2000 THE BRAVE ONE

10 2000 SHOOT THEM UP

11 2000 ROGUE ASSASSIN

12 2000 SHOOT THEM UP

13 2000 CHUCK & LARRY

14 2000 THE BRAVE ONE

15 2000 ROGUE ASSASSIN

16 2000 SHOOT THEM UP

17 2000 CHUCK & LARRY

18 2000 THE BRAVE ONE

19 2000 ROGUE ASSASSIN

20 2000 SHOOT THEM UP

21 2000 CHUCK & LARRY

22 2000 THE BRAVE ONE

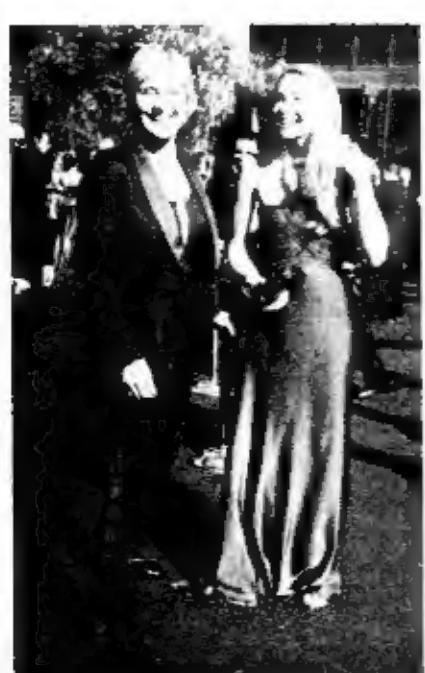
23 2000 ROGUE ASSASSIN

24 2000 SHOOT THEM UP

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2007

LIVING STARS

HE

JAIME PRESSLY
REUTERSELLEN DeGeneres, left, and partner
Portia de Rossi
REUTERSEmmy awards
on Sept. 16
in HollywoodGLENN CLOSE
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SHOOT 'EM UP
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:05
8-13

BRATZ
3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:45

UNDERDOG
2:25, 4:25
G

WAR: ROGUE ASSASSIN
8:00, 11:00
R-13

ANNA PAQUIN



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glorietta

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GLORIETTA 4	1 BRATZ	2 ROGUE ASSASSIN	3 SHOOT THEM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE BRAVE ONE
GREENBELT 1	1 JOSHUA	2 UNDERDOG	3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 THE BRAVE ONE
GREENBELT 3	1 SHOOT THEM UP	2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 THE BRAVE ONE
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 SHOOT THEM UP	2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	3 ROGUE ASSASSIN	4 THE BRAVE ONE
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	2 NANCY DREW	3 ROGUE ASSASSIN	4 THE LAST LEGION
MARKET! MARKET!	1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	2 HOST	3 ROGUE ASSASSIN	4 THE BRAVE ONE
TRINOMA	1 ROGUE ASSASSIN	2 HOST	3 BRATZ	4 SHOOT THEM UP GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 UNDERDOG	6 THE BRAVE ONE	7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	8 GUARANTEED SEATS

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<i>glorietta</i>				
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<i>GREENBELT</i>				
Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peak Presents: Collection of Kate Torralba September 12 to 23, 2007 at Greenbelt 3 Lobby				
<i>ALABANG TOWN CENTER</i>				
Philippine Robotics September 17 to 19, 2007 at the Activity Center				
<i>AYALA CENTER CEBU</i>				
Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)				
<i>MARKET! MARKET!</i>				
Health & Beauty Outlet Sale September 17 to 20, 2007 at the Activity Center				
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A superbly crafted psychological thriller.
A brilliant house-horror tale with **SHOCKING TWISTS**
Daily Beast: THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Sam Rockwell Vera Farmiga
joshua

Not all children are innocent.

MPRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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Glorietta Activity Center September 22 7:00pm
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Market! Market! Activity Center September 30 6:00pm

ABC MUKI FOX 2000

glorietta *GREENBELT* *AYALA CENTER CEBU* *MARKET!* *TriNoma*



THIS ANTIQUE walnut cabinet was originally displayed in the Kazemis' Persian rug showroom.



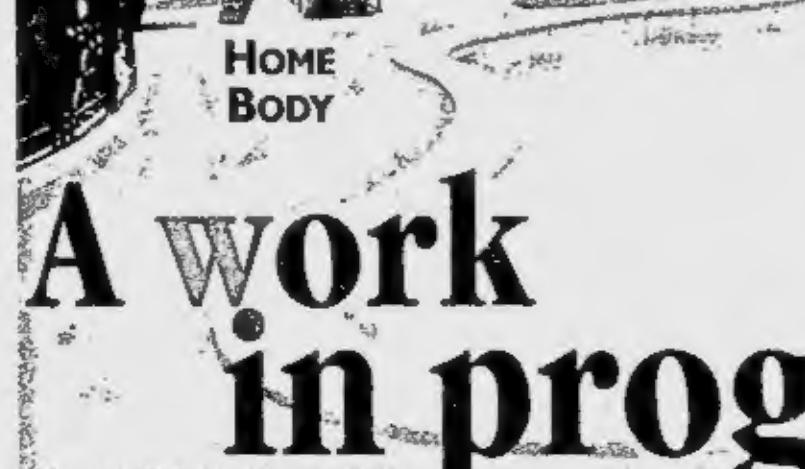
"THIS is where my friends and I hang out," says the actor.



AN AUTHENTIC opium pipe from Afghanistan.



THE CONSOLE and mirror are from Iran. "We were told to never sit on them," Kian says of the chairs with ornate design and ivory inlay.



By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Romy Homillada

AFTER LIVING IN A FLOOD-PRONE AREA in Makati City for nine years, the family of "Pinoy Big Brother Season 2" housemate Kian Kazemi (with dad, mom and three siblings) moved to the 27th floor of a posh condominium.

Kian recalled that the floods they contend with had endangered not only their possessions but, more importantly, their health and safety.

"I remembered that, twice, the floods went up so high, we carried all the furniture up to the second floor," Kian told Living Stars in a visit to his new home, also in Makati City.

A hotel and restaurant management graduate, Kian, 21, said the family moved to the condo unit—one of the four biggest in the building—only four years ago. His father Al, an interior designer, described the new dwelling as "a work in progress." In fact, at the end of the interview, Al arrived with three framed pictures that he intended to mount on the dining room wall.

"Dad is the expert," the 21-year-old ABS-CBN talent said. "Together with mom (Charito), he reinvented this place, made it



KIAN clowning around with his dad Al's antique ceremonial wedding sword made of silver, brass and ivory.



more spacious. I gave some suggestions, too. The model unit was so bland and plain-looking."

Al, an Iranian national, is a supplier of authentic Persian rugs. Which explains the exquisite carpets in the living and dining areas. The Kazemis run a nearby restaurant called Persia Grill. During our visit, the



THE KAZEMIS appreciate the quality authentic Persian rugs, whether for selling, or for enjoyment in their own home.

KATIE AND ANDERSON ARE GETTING MARRIED...
THEY JUST MET A FEW MINUTES AGO



JASON BIGGS ISLA FISHER
WEDDING DAZE



MADONNA and Child figurine made from ash. Kian's mom, Charito, got this as a birthday gift.



MOST days after work, Kian goes straight to the penthouse gym.



ANTIQUE wooden cabinet from China.

OPENING
SEPT. 26

WE HAVE WITNESSED
THE BEGINNING...
WE HAVE SEEN
THE APOCALYPSE...
NOW WE FACE
EXTINCTION.

MILLA JOVOVICH

RESIDENT EVIL:
EXTINCTION